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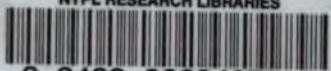
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THE  
HISTORY OF THE DRAINAGE  
OF THE  
GREAT LEVEL OF THE FENS,  
CALLED  
**BEDFORD LEVEL;**  
WITH THE  
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS  
OF THE  
**BEDFORD LEVEL CORPORATION.**

---

By SAMUEL WELLS, Esq.,

REGISTER OF THE CORPORATION.

---

VOL. II.

---

LONDON:

Published for the Author,

BY R. PHENEY, LAW BOOKSELLER, 17, FLEET-STREET.

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1830.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE  
THE GOVERNOR,  
THE BAILIFFS,  
AND COMMONALTY  
OF  
**The Great Level of the Fens,**  
CALLED  
**BEDFORD LEVEL,**

**THE FOLLOWING WORK**  
*IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,*  
BY ONE WHOSE GRATITUDE FOR THEIR CONFIDENCE,  
AND ZEAL IN THEIR SERVICE,  
AND IN THE SERVICE OF THE FENS AT LARGE,  
CAN TERMINATE ONLY WITH HIS EXISTENCE.



## TO THE READER.



**I**T was my original determination to publish, at the same time, the whole of my proposed Work ; but the great extent and variety of the documents, and other circumstances, have induced me to alter that determination, and to print it in distinct Parts—forming, when completed, two Volumes. Mr. COLLE's Collection has been for some time entirely exhausted ; and applications having been repeatedly made to me for that Work, I conceived it would be acceptable to the Public to have this Part ready for reference, as it contains (except the two first Eau Brink Acts) all the documents that are included in that Collection, with the Lot Book, corrected to the present period, and many other additions. It will also be of great assistance in completing the whole Work, to have the present Volume previously printed.

I may, I trust, be permitted to state, that when I

first issued the Prospectus and Synopsis of the Work, I was unable to form a correct opinion either of its extent, the expence I should incur, or the patronage I was likely to receive. The Work is purely local; and therefore, perhaps, I had formed too sanguine an opinion of the support which would be extended to it.

The expence of printing, of engraving an entire new Map, and of sundry Plans, illustrative of the text, (which are quite unavoidable) will greatly exceed the amount of the subscriptions; but having undertaken the Work, I am desirous of its completion (imperfect as it may be as a literary performance), in order to evince my gratitude to those Noblemen and Gentlemen, who have so kindly intimated their support.—Pecuniary considerations have, perhaps, too little influenced my conduct throughout life; and I am sure I have never been deterred from performing what I consider a public duty, by any personal motives.

The remaining Part of the Work is in considerable progress, and will be published as soon as my numerous avocations will permit, and the Map and Engravings can be completed.

The present Volume contains, as a Frontispiece, the New Sluice lately erected at Salter's Lode, (the Key of the Middle Level,) under the plans and superintendence of Mr. JOHN DYSON, the able and attentive Engineer to the Board. I have inserted an engraving of

this elegant and useful structure, as a general specimen of the engravings preparing for the whole Work, and from a strong desire that it may induce many of my readers to take an opportunity of viewing, not only this Sluice, so highly creditable to the Board and the ability of the Engineer, but also the New Sluices recently erected at the Hermitage, Wellmore Lake, and Standground, and that now erecting at the entrance of the Old Bedford River—all excellent according to their several plans and purposes;—An inspection of these objects cannot fail to be highly interesting to persons whose property is mainly dependent upon the due execution and preservation of works of this nature.

In perusing the Volume now published, it may not perhaps be obvious why I have inserted several of the documents which appear in the Appendix. I must entreat the Reader to withhold any opinion he may form in this respect, until he sees the Work complete; until which period, of course, the Author's design cannot be perfectly developed.

Whatever public opinions I may have conscientiously adopted, and acted upon, it is a source of great satisfaction to find that those opinions have had no influence in deterring many distinguished and honourable persons from giving encouragement to the present Work. I hail the circumstance with feelings of deep

gratitude and sincere pleasure. It will, and ought to act as a stimulus for me to discharge with diligence, fidelity, and attention, the various duties of the very important office I have the honour to hold under the Corporation.

SAMUEL WELLS,

REG. B. L. C.

Fen Office, Serjeant's Inn,  
Fleet Street, 1st August, 1828.

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**A LIST**  
**OF THE PRESENT**  
**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD,**  
**AND OF THE**  
**OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION,**  
**WITH**  
**THE DATE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTIONS.**

---

*Whitsun Meeting, 1828.*

**GOVERNOR.**

- |   |   |                    |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. The Most Noble JOHN DUKE of BEDFORD, | { | Conservator, 1797. |
| K. G. ....                              | { | Governor, 1802.    |

**BAILIFFS.**

- |  |   |                    |
|--|---|--------------------|
| 1. The Rev. George Jenyns, one of the Prebendaries of the Cathedral Church of Ely, and Chairman of the Board .....   | { | Conservator, 1788. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1798.     |
| 2. The Right Hon. Philip Earl of Hardwicke, K.G. Lord Lieutenant of the County, High Steward of the University of Cambridge, and Surveyor-General of the Corporation ) | { | Conservator, 1781. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1806.     |
| 3. William Henry Fellowes, Esq. M. P. for the County of Huntingdon....   | { | Conservator, 1792. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1804.     |
| 4. John Thurlow Dering, Esq. ....  | { | Conservator, 1809. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1816.     |
| 5. Thomas Orton, Esq.....  | { | Conservator, 1813. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1825.     |
| 6. John Fryer, Esq. ....   | { | Conservator, 1817. |
|  | { | Bailiff, 1827.     |

## CONSERVATORS.

1. Harry Spencer Waddington, Esq. ....	1806.
2. The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Milton, M.P. for the County of York .....	} 1807.
3. William Dunn Gardner, Esq. ....	
4. Richard Orton, Esq. ....	1809.
5. Joseph Vipan, Esq. ....	1813.
6. The Most Noble the Marquis of Tavistock, M. P. for the County of Bedford .....	} 1814.
7. William George Adam, Esq. one his Majes- ty's Counsel .....	
8. Jonathan Page, Esq. ....	1817
9. Henry James Nicholls, Esq. ....	1819.
10. Tycho Wing, Esq.....	1820.
11. Charles Jenyns, Esq. Barrister at Law.....	1822.
12. Richard Greaves Townley, Esq. ....	1823.
13. George Pryme, Esq. Barrister at Law, and Professor of Political Economy in the University of Cambridge.....	} 1824.
14. John Angerstein, Esq. ....	
15. The Hon. William Thomas Twisleton Fiennes	1825.
16. John Hibbert, Esq. ....	1826.
17. Admiral the Hon. Sir Joseph Sidney Yorke, M. P. for the Borough of Reigate in Sur- rey .....	} 1827.
18. Sir Culling Smith, Bart.....	
19. John Walbank Childers, Esq. ....	1827.
20. John Hennington, Esq.....	1828.
1 Governor.	
6 Bailiffs.	
20 Conservators.	
27 Total Members of the Board.	

## Officers of the Corporation.

---

### SURVEYOR GENERAL (*without a salary*).

The Right Hon. Philip Earl of Hardwicke, K. G. ... 1808.

### REGISTER.

Samuel Wells, Esq. Fen Office, 6, Serjeant's Inn, }  
Fleet Street, and at Huntingdon. .... } 3 Nov. 1824.

### RECEIVER AND EXPENDITOR GENERAL.

Hugh Robert Evans, Esq. Ely ..... 1819.

### AUDITOR.

Steed Girdlestone, Esq. Wisbeach ..... 1825.

### SERJEANT AT MACE.

William Marshall, Esq. Ely ..... 1812.

### SUPERINTENDANTS.

#### *Of the North Division of the Middle Level.*

Mr. John Little, Eldernell ..... 1810.

#### *Of the South Division of the Middle Level.*

Mr. John Owen, Mepal ..... 1816.

#### *Of the East Division of the Middle Level.*

Mr. John Sedgley, Upwell ..... 1825.

#### *Of the South Level.*

Mr. Joseph Little, Eldernell ..... 1815.

## SLUICE KEEPERS.

<i>Of Denver Sluice.</i> —George Stevens .....	1822.
<i>Of Salter's Lode Sluice.</i> —John Pinnock .....	1814.
<i>Of Standground Sluice.</i> —David Bowker .....	1814.
<i>Of Hermitage Sluice.</i> —John Ayres.....	1827.
<i>Of Welch's Dam Sluice.</i> —Abraham Lepla.....	1820.
<i>Of Sixteen Feet Sluice.</i> —Thomas Baker .....	1823.
<i>Of Sutton Wash Sluice.</i> —John Owen. ....	1825.
<i>Of Welmoor Lake Sluice.</i> —William Winters.....	1827.

## NORTH LEVEL.

*Officer of the Banks of the First District.*

Mr. John Williams .....	1809.
-------------------------	-------

*Officer of all the other Banks.*

Mr. John Burdook.....	1813.
-----------------------	-------

*Receiver of the Taxes under the 11th and 36th Geo. 3.*

Mr. Thomas Steed Watson.....	1790.
------------------------------	-------

## REGISTRY FEES, &c.

---

By the 15 Car. 2. s. 8.\* all conveyances by indenture of the 95,000 acres are to be entered with the Register, and no lease, grant, conveyance, or charge out of or upon the same (except leases for seven years) are of force but from the time they are so entered.

It is the intention of the author, in the second part of this work, to treat fully upon the legal effect of this clause, and to insert the several cases bearing immediately or relatively on the subject; but it has been thought convenient for the profession to insert in this place the fees payable upon the registration.

No time is specified for the registration (the deed only taking effect from that period); but for the purpose of preserving the Lot Book as correct as possible, the Board have directed (by a standing order) that double fees shall be paid upon all deeds not left for inrollment within six months from the date thereof; and no conveyance is to be registered unless it specify the Lot, Number, and Part conveyed, with such certainty as will enable the Register to transfer the quantity conveyed from the part owned by the grantee.

Persons becoming entitled to adventure lands by descent or devise are also required to send certificates thereof, for which no fees are paid, unless the will itself is enrolled.

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\* Appendix, page 393.

The single fees for registration of any conveyance, mortgage, assignment, lease or will, or any other description of deed, are according to the length; namely, for the first 100 words, One Shilling; for every subsequent 100, Six-pence; and for endorsing and placing the Register's signature upon each original deed, Two Shillings and Six-pence.

N. B. The above fees were settled in the year 1751.



## A TABLE

*Of the Years of the Reigns of the Kings and  
Queens of England, from the Norman Con-  
quest until the present Time.*

W. Conq. Oct. 14, 1066.		Henry I. August 1, 1100.		Stephen. Dec. 2, 1135.		Henry II.	
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
1	1066	1	1100	1	1135	15	1168
2	1067	2	1101	2	1136	16	1169
3	1068	3	1102	3	1137	17	1170
4	1069	4	1103	4	1138	18	1171
5	1070	5	1104	5	1139	19	1172
6	1071	6	1105	6	1140	20	1173
7	1072	7	1106	7	1141	21	1174
8	1073	8	1107	8	1142	22	1175
9	1074	9	1108	9	1143	23	1176
10	1075	10	1109	10	1144	24	1177
11	1076	11	1110	11	1145	25	1178
12	1077	12	1111	12	1146	26	1179
13	1078	13	1112	13	1147	27	1180
14	1079	14	1113	14	1148	28	1181
15	1080	15	1114	15	1149	29	1182
16	1081	16	1115	16	1150	30	1183
17	1082	17	1116	17	1151	31	1184
18	1083	18	1117	18	1152	32	1185
19	1084	19	1118	19	1153—4	33	1186
20	1085	20	1119			34	1187
21	1086—7	21	1120			35	1188—9
W. Rufus. Sept. 9, 1087.		22	1121	Henry II. Oct. 25, 1154.		Richard I. July 6, 1189.	
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	23	1122	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
		24	1123				
		25	1124				
		26	1125				
		27	1126				
		28	1127				
1	1087	29	1128	1	1154		
2	1088	30	1129	2	1155	1	1189
3	1089	31	1130	3	1156	2	1190
4	1090	32	1131	4	1157	3	1191
5	1091	33	1132	5	1158	4	1192
6	1092	34	1133	6	1159	5	1193
7	1093	35	1134	7	1160	6	1194
8	1094	36	1135	8	1161	7	1195
9	1095			9	1162	8	1196
10	1096			10	1163	9	1197
11	1079			11	1164	10	1198—9
12	1098			12	1165		
13	1099-1100			13	1166		
				14	1167		

John. April 6, 1199.		Henry III.		Edward I.		Edward III.	
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
1	1199	30	1245	21	1292	4	1329—30
2	1200	31	1246	22	1293	5	1330—31
3	1201	32	1247	23	1294	6	1331—32
4	1202	33	1248	24	1295	7	1332—33
5	1203	34	1249	25	1296	8	1333—34
6	1204	35	1250	26	1297	9	1334—35
7	1205	36	1251	27	1298	10	1335—36
8	1206	37	1252	28	1299	11	1336—37
9	1207	38	1253	29	1300	12	1337—38
10	1208	39	1254	30	1301	13	1338—39
11	1209	40	1255	31	1302	14	1339—40
12	1210	41	1256	32	1303	15	1340—41
13	1211	42	1257	33	1304	16	1341—42
14	1212	43	1258	34	1305	17	1342—43
15	1213	44	1259	35	1306—7	18	1343—44
16	1214	45	1260	Edward II. July 7, 1307.		19	1344—45
17	1215	46	1261			20	1345—46
18	1216	47	1262			21	1346—47
		48	1263			22	1347—48
Henry III. Oct. 19, 1216.		49	1264	Year of	Year of	23	1348—49
		50	1265	Reign.	our Lord.	24	1349—50
		51	1266			25	1350—51
		52	1267	1	1307	26	1351—52
1	1216	53	1268	2	1308	27	1352—53
2	1217	54	1269	3	1309	28	1353—54
3	1218	55	1270	4	1310	29	1354—55
4	1219	56	1271	5	1311	30	1355—56
5	1220	57	1272	6	1312	31	1356—57
6	1221	Edward I. Nov. 16, 1272.		7	1313	32	1357—58
7	1222			8	1314	33	1358—59
8	1223			9	1315	34	1359—60
9	1224			10	1316	35	1360—61
10	1225	Year of	Year of	11	1317	36	1361—62
11	1226	Reign.	our Lord.	12	1318	37	1362—63
12	1227	1	1272	13	1319	38	1363—64
13	1228	2	1273	14	1320	39	1364—65
14	1229	3	1274	15	1321	40	1365—66
15	1230	4	1275	16	1322	41	1366—67
16	1231	5	1276	17	1323	42	1367—68
17	1232	6	1277	18	1324	43	1368—69
18	1233	7	1278	19	1325	44	1369—70
19	1234	8	1279	20	1226 o. s.	45	1370—71
20	1235	9	1280		1237 N. s.	46	1371—72
21	1236	10	1281	Edward III. Jan. 25, 1326. o. s. 1327. N. s.		47	1372—73
22	1237	11	1282			48	1373—74
23	1238	12	1283			49	1374—75
24	1239	13	1284	Year of	Year of	50	1375—76
25	1240	14	1285	Reign.	our Lord.	51	1376—77
26	1241	15	1286				
27	1242	16	1287	1	1326—27		
28	1243	17	1288	2	1327—28		
29	1244	18	1289	3	1328—29		
		19	1290				
		20	1291				

REGAL TABLE.

xix

Richard II. June 21, 1377. O. S. and N. S.		Henry V. March 20. 1412. O. S. 1413. N. S.		Henry VI.		Richard III. June 22, 1483.	
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord. O. S. N. S.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
1	1377	1	1412—13	36	1457	1	1483
2	1378	2	1413—14	37	1458	2	1484
3	1379	3	1414—15	38	1459	3	1485
4	1380	4	1415—16	39 }	1460 O. S.	Henry VII. Aug. 22, 1485.	
5	1381	5	1416—17		1461 N. S.		
6	1382	6	1417—18	Edward IV. Mar. 4. 1460. O. S. 1461. N. S.		Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
7	1383	7	1418—19				
8	1384	8	1419—20	Henry VI. Aug. 31. 1422. O. S. and N. S.		Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
9	1385	9	1420—21				
10	1386	10	1421—22	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord. O. S. N. S.	1	1485
11	1387	Henry VI. Aug. 31. 1422. O. S. and N. S.				2	1486
12	1388			3	1487		
13	1389	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	2	1461—62	4	1488
14	1390			3	1462—63	5	1489
15	1391	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	4	1463—64	6	1490
16	1392			5	1464—65	7	1491
17	1393	1	1422	6	1465—66	8	1492
18	1394	2	1423	7	1466—67	9	1493
19	1395	3	1424	8	1467—68	10	1494
20	1396	4	1425	9	1468—69	11	1495
21	1397	5	1426	10	1469—70	12	1496
22	1398	6	1427	11	1470—71	13	1497
23	1399	7	1428	12	1471—72	14	1498
Henry IV. Sept. 29, 1399.		8	1429	13	1472—73	15	1499
		9	1430	14	1473—74	16	1500
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	10	1431	15	1474—75	17	1501
		11	1432	16	1475—76	18	1502
1	1399	12	1433	17	1476—77	19	1503
2	1400	13	1434	18	1477—78	20	1504
3	1401	14	1435	19	1478—79	21	1505
4	1402	15	1436	20	1479—80	22	1506
5	1403	16	1437	21	1480—81	23	1507
6	1404	17	1438	22	1481—82	24	1508—9
7	1405	18	1439	23	1482—83	Henry VIII. April 22, 1509.	
8	1406	19	1440	Edward V. April 9, 1483. O. S. and N. S.			
9	1407	20	1441			Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
10	1408	21	1442	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.		
11	1409	22	1443			1	1509
12	1410	23	1444	2	1510		
13	1411	24	1445	3	1511		
14 }	1412O. S. 1413N. S.	25	1446	4	1512		
		26	1447	5	1513		
		27	1448	6	1514		
		28	1449	7	1515		
		29	1450	8	1516		
		30	1451	9	1517		
		31	1452	10	1518		
		32	1453	11	1519		
		33	1454				
		34	1455				
		35	1456				

Henry VIII.		Queen Mary.		James I.		Charles I.	
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
12	1520						
13	1521						
14	1522						
15	1523						
16	1524						
17	1525						
18	1526						
19	1527						
20	1528						
21	1529						
22	1530						
23	1531						
24	1532						
25	1533						
26	1534						
27	1535						
28	1536						
29	1537						
30	1538						
31	1539						
32	1540						
33	1541						
34	1542						
35	1543						
36	1544						
37	1545						
38	1546 o. s.						
	1547 n. s.						
Edward VI.							
January 28.							
1546. o. s.							
1547. n. s.							
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
1	1546—47	1	1558	1	1602—03	1	1648—49
2	1547—48	2	1559	2	1603—04	2	1649—50
3	1548—49	3	1560	3	1604—05	3	1650—51
4	1549—50	4	1561	4	1605—06	4	1651—52
5	1550—51	5	1562	5	1606—07	5	1652—53
6	1551—52	6	1563	6	1607—08	6	1653—54
7	1552—53	7	1564	7	1608—09	7	1654—55
		8	1565	8	1609—10	8	1655—56
		9	1566	9	1610—11	9	1656—57
		10	1567	10	1611—12	10	1657—58
		11	1568	11	1612—13	11	1658—59
		12	1569	12	1613—14	12	1659—60
		13	1570	13	1614—15	13	1660—61
		14	1571	14	1615—16	14	1661—62
		15	1572	15	1616—17	15	1662—63
		16	1573	16	1617—18	16	1663—64
		17	1574	17	1618—19	17	1664—65
		18	1575	18	1619—20	18	1665—66
		19	1576	19	1620—21	19	1666—67
		20	1577	20	1621—22	20	1667—68
		21	1578	21	1622—23	21	1668—69
		22	1579	22	1623—24	22	1669—70
		23	1580	23	1624—25	23	1670—71
		24	1581			24	1671—72
		25	1582			25	1672—73
		26	1583			26	1673—74
		27	1584			27	1674—75
		28	1585			28	1

REGAL TABLE.

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James II. Feb. 6, 1684. o. s. 1685. n. s.		Anne.		George II.		George III.					
Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord. O. S. N. S.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.	Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.				
1	1684—85	9	1709—10	17	1743	27	1786				
2	1685—86	10	1710—11	18	1744	28	1787				
3	1686—87	11	1711—12	19	1745	29	1788				
4	1687—88	12	1712—13	20	1746	30	1789				
5	1688—89	13	1713—14	21	1747	31	1790				
Will. and Mary. February 13. 1688. o. s. 1689. n. s.		George I. Aug. 1, 1714. o. s. and n. s.		22	1748	32	1791				
				23	1749	33	1792				
				24	1750	34	1793				
				25	1751	35	1794				
				26	1752	36	1795				
				27	1753	37	1796				
				28	1754	38	1797				
				29	1755	39	1798				
				30	1756	40	1799				
				31	1757	41	1800				
William III.		George II. June 11, 1727.		George III. Oct. 25, 1760.		42	1801				
						43	1802				
						44	1803				
						45	1804				
						46	1805				
						47	1806				
						48	1807				
						49	1808				
						50	1809				
						51	1810				
7	1694—95	12	1725	1	1760	52	1811				
8	1695—96	13	1726	2	1761	53	1812				
9	1696—97	14	1727	3	1762	54	1813				
10	1697—98	George II. June 11, 1727.		4	1763	55	1814				
11	1698—99			5	1764	56	1815				
12	1699—00			6	1765	57	1816				
13	1700—01			7	1766	58	1817				
14	1701—02			8	1767	59	1818				
Anne. March 8. 1701. o. s. 1702. n. s.				George II. June 11, 1727.		9	1768	60	1819		
						10	1769	George IV. Jan. 29, 1820.			
						11	1770			Year of Reign.	Year of our Lord.
						12	1771				
						13	1772			1	1820
		14	1773			2	1821				
		15	1774			3	1822				
		16	1775			4	1823				
		17	1776			5	1824				
		18	1777			6	1825				
19	1778	7	1826								
20	1779	8	1827								
21	1780	9	1828								
22	1781										
23	1782										
24	1783										
25	1784										
26	1785										

TABLE OF THE LENGTH OF SOVEREIGNS' REIGNS FROM  
THE CONQUEST.

<i>Kings' Names.</i>	<i>When their Reigns began.</i>	<i>Reigned.</i> Years. Mo. Da.
<b>NORMAN LINE.</b>		
William the Conqueror	1066, October 14.	20 10 26
William Rufus	1087, September 9.	12 10 24
Henry I.	1100, August 1.	55 4 1
Stephen.	1135, December 2.	18 10 23
<b>THE SAXON OR PLANTAGENET LINE.</b>		
Henry II.	1154, October 25.	34 8 11
Richard I.	1189, July 6.	9 9 —
John.	1199, April 6.	17 6 13
Henry III.	1216, October 19.	56 — 28
Edward I.	1272, November 16.	34 7 21
Edward II.	1307, July 7.	19 6 18
Edward III.	{ 1326, o. s. } January 25.	50 4 27
	{ 1327, n. s. }	
Richard II.	1377, June 21.	22 3 8
<b>THE LINE OF LANCASTER.</b>		
Henry IV.	1399, September 29.	13 5 20
Henry V.	{ 1412, o. s. } March 20.	9 5 11
	{ 1413, n. s. }	
Henry VI.	1422, August 31.	38 6 4
<b>THE LINE OF YORK.</b>		
Edward IV.	{ 1460, o. s. } March 4.	22 1 5
	{ 1461, n. s. }	
Edward V.	1483, April 9.	— 2 13
Richard III.	1483, June 20.	2 2 —
<b>THE HOUSE OF TUDOR.</b>		
Henry VII.	1485, August 22.	23 8 —
Henry VIII.	1509, April 22.	37 9 6
Edward VI.	{ 1546, o. s. } January 28.	6 5 9
	{ 1547, n. s. }	
Queen Mary.	1553, July 6.	5 4 11
Queen Elizabeth.	1558, November 17.	44 4 7
<b>THE HOUSE OF STUART.</b>		
James I.	{ 1603, o. s. } March 24.	22 — 3
	{ 1604, n. s. }	
Charles I.	1625, March 27.	23 10 3
Charles II.	{ 1648, o. s. } January 30.	36 — 7
	{ 1649, n. s. }	
James II.	{ 1685, o. s. } February 6.	4 — 7
	{ 1686, n. s. }	
<b>SINCE THE REVOLUTION.</b>		
William III.	{ 1688, o. s. } Feb. 13.	13 — 23
	{ 1689, n. s. }	
Queen Anne.	{ 1701, o. s. } March 8.	12 4 24
	{ 1702, n. s. }	
George I.	1714, August 1.	13 10 10
George II.	1727, June 11.	33 4 14
George III.	1760, October 25.	59 2 4
George IV.	1820, January 29.	— — —

# APPENDIX.

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## No. I.

**PRESENTATION of the Dikes and Sewers of all the Townships from Spalding unto Tyd St. Mary in Holland.** The 19th year of King Ric. 2. 1395.

**AN INQUISITION taken at Fleet on Monday next after the Feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the 19th year of the reign of King Richard the Second, before Philip Spencer and his Companions, Justices of the Lord the King of the walls, dikes, sewers, bridges, causeways, wears, and trenches in the parts aforesaid, by the oath of Reginald Roe of Gedney, John Greene, John Storme of Fleete, John Versey, Simon Bradhawe, William Fitz Richard of Holbytych, John Martynson of Whapload, William Rudde of Weston, William Pestell of Spalding, John Strugg of Holbytych, John Harcroft of Whaplod, and John Thurkell of Gedney, who say upon their oath:**

**That John the Prior of Spalding, and the convent of the same place, ought and are bound to repair and keep up a certain dike in Spalding over against the messuage heretofore of John Pegbridge knight, to the messuage aforesaid, in defence of the water of Welond, and to the salvation of the country, and is not repaired.** Dike in Spaldinge.

Dike in  
Spaldinge.

Also they say that the town of Spalding ought to repair a certain dike in Spaldinge near the water of Weiland to the mill of the Abbot of Crowland, in defence of the water aforesaid, and to the salvation of the country, for lands and tenements which abutt upon the said dike, *viz.* over against their land or tenement, for the same tenement, and is not repaired.

Dike in  
Spalding.

Also they say that the town of Spalding ought to repair and keep up the dike in Spalding near the water of Weiland, *viz.* every man of the said town according to the number of his acres in Spaldinge as of old time have been agisted, *viz.* from the Mill of the Abbot unto Spalding Drove, and is not repaired.

Dike in  
Spalding.

Also they say that the town of Spalding ought to repair a certain dike in Spalding near the water of Weylong, from Spalding Drove against the messuage of Reginald Wright in Cowbit, in defence of the water aforesaid, and to the salvation of the country, for the lands and tenements which they hold abutting upon the said dike, every one over against his land or tenement for the same tenement, and is not repaired.

Dike in  
Spalding.

Also they say that John the Prior of Spalding, and the convent of the same place, ought and are bound to repair and keep up a certain dike in Spaldinge near the water of Weyland, from the said messuage of Reginald Wright unto the messuage of William de Relood of Pikall, in defence of the water aforesaid and to the salvation of the country, for the manor of Colvill and other lands and tenements, which tenements adjoin to the said dike, and is not repaired.

Dike in  
Spalding.

Also they say that Thomas the Abbot of Crowland, and the convent of the same place, and their tenants, *viz.* John Goilde, William Grimer, Dulcea Ende, and William Kelod, ought to repair a certain dike in Spaldinge, near the water of Wellond, from the said messuage of William Kelhoods unto Colmyllydyke, in defence of the water



aforesaid and to the salvation of the country, for lands and tenements, which tenements abutt upon the said dike, *viz.* every of them near his tenement, for the same tenement, and is not repaired.

Also they say that Henry Earl of Northumberland, the Lord Walter Fitz Walter, the Lord Robert Harrington, the Lord of Haldingham, John the Prior of Spalding, and the convent of the same place, ought and are bound to repair and keep up a certain dike in Spalding near the water of Weyland, from Collmildike unto Brotherhouse, in defence of the water aforesaid and to the salvation of the country, for lands and tenements, which tenements abutt upon the said dike, *viz.* every of them over against his land or tenement, for the same tenement, and is not repaired.

Dike in  
Spalding.

## No. II.

AN INQUISIC'ON taken at Fleete uppon Monday next after the Feast of St. Thomas the Martyre, in the 19th yeare of the raigne of Kinge Richard the Second, before Phillipp Spencer and his fellowes, Justices of our Sovreigne L. the Kinge, By the oathes of Reignold Roe of Sidney, John Greene, John Storme of Fleete, John Dersey, Symeon Bradhow, William the son of Richard Holbeth, John Martino Sonn of Quapload, William Rudd of Weston, William Pestell of Spaldinge, John Stongg of Holbich, John Harcroft of Quapload, and John Thurkell of Gegney, who say and affirme: That John the Prior of Spaldinge, and the convent of the same place, ought to repayre a banke in Spaldinge

opposite upon the messuage sometye John Pegbridges, Knight, in defence of the water of Welland and safegard of the countrie. And that the towne of Spalding ought to repayre one banke in Spalding next Welland Water aforesaid, from the aforesaid messuage sometye John Pegbridge's unto the Abbott's mill of Croiland, in defence of the water aforesaid and safegard for the countrie, for the lands and tenements abuttinge uppon the said banke. And that the towne of Spalding ought to repayre and heighten the banks in Spalding next Welland Water, every man according to his number of acres in Spalding, as they were of old adjoysted, viz. From the Abbott's mill unto Spalding Drove. And that the towne of Spalding ought to repayre a banke in Spalding next Welland Water, from Spalding Drove towards the messuage of Reignold Wright in Cowpitt, in defence of the said water, for their lands and tenements abuttinge upon the same banke, eidie ma. against his owne lands and tenements. And that the Prior of Spalding and convent of the same place ought to repayre the same banke from the said messuage of Reignold Wright unto the messuage of William Kellod of Pikall, in defence of the said water, for the mannor of Colvill and other lands and tenements adjoininge uppon the same banke. And that Thomas the Abbott of Croyland, and the convent of the same place and their tenants, ought to repayre the same banke next Welland Water, from the said messuage of William Kellod unto Colemill Dike. And from Colemill Dike unto Brotherhouse ought to be repayed by Henry Earl of Northumberland, Sir Walter Fitzwalter, Sir Robert Harington, Knight, the Lord of Aldingham, John the Prior of Spalding and convent of the same place, for the lands and tenements abuttinge upon the same. And that a banke upon the south part of Welland Water, from Brotherhouse unto the Cloate, and soe


unto Woodloade, is to be repayred by Thomas Abot of Croyland and the convent of the same place, for their tenements which they have within precincts of Corville. And from Woodloade unto Croyland Bridge ought to be repayred by the townshipp of Croyland, for their tenements which they hold in Croyland and in the Leme Downes abutting upon the same banke. And that Thomas the Abbot of Croyland, and the convent of the same place, ought to repayre a certaine banke from the bridge of Croyland unto Goodlake's Cross, and from thence by the South Eae unto Dove's Daile Cloot, in defence of the water of Neane and of the South Eae, which descend from the bridge and towne of Peterbourgh, for the saveward of the countrie, and for their lands and tenements in the precincts of Croiland and abutting upon the same banke. And that the townshipp of Quapload and Holbich next the Southea from Dovesdale Cloot unto Fleete Hevedings, called Willow Dike, and from Willow Dike unto Gedney Hevedings by the towne of Fleete. And from Gedney Hevedings unto Sutton Hevedings, by the towne of Gedney. And from Sutton Hevedings unto Priors Barrs in Sutton, by the townshipp of Sutton. And from Priors Barrs in Sutton unto the Clowes in Sutton, by the township of Tydd St. Mary, every man of the same townes according to the number of acres of their land in the bounds aforesaid, and as of antiquitie they have beene adjoysted, Henry Earle of Northumberland, Sir Walter Fitzwalter, Sir Robert Harrington, the Lord of Aldingham, John the Prior of Spaldinge and the convent of the same place, ought to repayre a certaine banke in Weston called the Loade Dyke, from Brotherhouse unto Broadgates End, in Weston aforesaid, for their lands and tenements which they hold in Weston abutting upon the same banke. And the townshipp of Weston ought to repayre the Loade Dike in Weston, from Weston Broadgate unto

.

Multon Sea Dike. And from Multon Sea Dike unto the banke of John Littleberne Knight, in Quaplude is to be repayred by the towne of Multon. And that the townes of Quapload and Holbich ought to repayre a certeine load in Quapload called Schepudike, from Multon Coate unto Dowes Dale Cloote: And alsoe one other banke in Quapload and Holbich, called Comon Dike, from Schepestone unto the Hole in Fleete. And that the towne of Holbech ought to repayre a bank in Holbich called Holbich Rought, from Comon Diche unto Asger Diche. And from Asger Dike unto Gedell Dike, on the east part of the bank, and soe unto Bendon Bridge, in forme aforesaid. And that a certeine banke in Fleete called Willowe Dike, from the South Eae unto Holcote, ought to be repayred by John Harrington, Mathew Redman, and Sir Walter Fitzwalter, every of them against his lands and tenements abutting upon the same banke. And the banke in Fleete called Fleete Rought, from Wallcoat unto Wyndson, ought to be repayred by the township of Fleete in forme aforesaid. And that certeine sand-bancks and hills, by reason of the floweing and ebbinge of the Sea, have soe choaked and landed upp a certeine river called Spaldinge Eae, from Pegbridge unto Brotherhowse, that the water of Welland cannot have his course into the Sea, by reason whereof divers of the lands and tenements in Holland be drowned; and therefore it is requisite that the same river be repayred and made cleane by John the Prior of Spalding and the convent of the same place, which have their severall fishinges in the foresaid waters. And from thence unto Woodload by Thomas the Abbott of Croiland and the convent of the same place, and by John the Prior of Spaldinge and the convent of the same place, whoe have their sev'ral fishings in the same waters. And that a certeine porcion of lands of the townes of Quapload, Holbech,

Fleete, Gedney, Sutton, and Tydd, called the Fenn Ends, viz. between the Southeae of the one part, and Ravens-dike from Nealon Mere unto Tydd Bridge on the other part, be so lowe and deepe, and because of the height of lands between those Fenn Ends and the Sea, whereupon they are yearely drowned; and therefore it is necessary that a newe sewer be made, whereby the aforesaid lands in the Fenn Ends of the townes aforesaid might hereafter sewer to the Sea, which sewer shall begin at the Seadyke in Quapload, and be made in bredth 12 foote, and extend itselfe from the said Seadyke unto Fleete Rought, by a certeine banke there called Ashdyke on the South part, and soe in Fleete from thence to a certeine way called Lords Dyke on the South part, unto Gedney Delph. Alsoe in Gedney unto Gedney Hevedinge, and from thence unto Leergates, and from thence in Sutton by the Old Fenn Dike on the South part in Sutton unto Tydd Greynes, and there lett it fall into Tyddhea, and soe from Tyddhea unto the Sea; which said sewer, let it conteyne in breadth 13 foote: And lett it bee made and repayred from the Seadyke in Quapload unto Fleete Rought by the townshipp of Fleete and Holbich, and from thence unto Gedney Delph by the towne of Fleete, and from thence unto Sutton Hevedings by the towne of Gedney, and from thence unto Tydd Greines by the townshipp of Sutton.

In the 19th yeare of the reigne of K. Richard the Second.



## No. III.

10 Aug.  
21 Hen. 8.

BY AN INQUISIC'ON taken the 10th day of Aug. in the 21 year of the raigne of King Henry the Eight, before the Abbott of Dereham, Thomas Bedingfield and Edmond Bedingfield, Knt. Francis Munford, Tho. Dereham, John Fincham, Esq. and others, as by the oathes of William Everard, Symon Fincham, Esq. John Everard, Thomas Gallaud, Richard Roydon, John Davie, Gent. and ten others, jurators then sworne, may appear, That the streame from Erith Bridge to Parkhall Were is to be clensted and scowred by the Bishop of Ely; from Parkhall Were to Horsey Heath by the Abbott of Thorney and the Abbott of Catteris; from thence to the Mill by the Abbott of Ramsay; from thence to Restich Corner by the Abbesse of Chartis; from thence to Echyn Were Doare and from thence to Pulver Holt End, by the Abbott of Chartris; from Pulver Cote to Spencers Holt End, by the Bishop of Ely and the chappell of St. James; from thence to Beale's Crofte by the Bishop of Ely and the Prior of Huntingdon; from thence to the Common Water of Doddington by the Abbott of Ramsey; from thence to Wavermouth by the towne of Doddington; from thence to Newstal by the Abbott of Ramsey; from thence unto Benwicke Town End by the Bishop of Ely and the monastery of St. John Baptist in Ely aforesaid; from thence to Claypoole Dore by John Lawrence; from thence to Bylop Dyke End by the Bishop of Ely; from thence unto Copoldree by the Lord Boleyn; from thence to Plum'o Weyre by the Bishop of Ely; from thence to the Wisemouth by the Lord Bulleyn; from thence to Whittlesey Dyke End, and so to



**Bradney Coate**, by Roger Townsend Knight; from thence to the next weyre by Henry Barrett; from thence unto **Great Ross Weyre** by the Abbott of Dereham; from thence unto **Whiteland** by the town of **Merche**; from thence to **Ferry Fore Weare** by the Abbott of Dereham; from thence to the next weire beyond **Merch Bridge** by John Barrett; from thence unto **Pryors Crossways** by the Prior of Saunte; from thence unto the **Parson of Doddington's Water** by Alexander Balam, and soe by him to **Krick Weire**; from thence to **Dodney Cote** by Mr. Crofts; from thence to the **Willow in Pages Fenn** by the Prior of Thirlinging; from thence unto **Hasell Wood Tree** by the Bishop of Ely; from thence unto **Marmound in Well** by the Bishop of Ely and the Duke of **Lankaster**; from **Marmound** to **Thirlinging late** by the Prior of **Marmound**, the cellerie of **Bury St. Edmonds**, and the Prior of **Thirlinging**; from thence to the **House Corner** sometymes **William Emmeths**, and soe to the **Gate** that lyeth between **Barrett** and **Craneforth**, and soe to the **House of William Bateman** by **Thomas Fincham**, and the cellerie of **Bury**; from **William Bateman's house** to **Richard Brond's house** by the Abbott of **Ramsey**; from thence to **Agnes Gyles Watering**, and a messuage under **Lake Bridge**, by the Bishop of **Ely** for two parts, and **Thomas Fincham** for the third parte; from thence to **John Wells' house** by **Robert Damot** for three partes, the cellerie of **Ramsey** for the fourth part; from **Damot's Water** unto **P'songate in Outwell**, by **Thomas Wells**; from thence to the **Cross** towards **Mullicourt**, by the townshipp of **Outwell**; from thence to the **Kirkfield**, otherwise called the **Churchfield Dike**, by the **Almeshouse of Ramsey**. 21 H. 8.

The **Cellerie of Bury** ought to scowre and make **Shetinge Middle** in **Crockload** by one myle and more. The Duke of **Gloucester** ought to make cleane **Chuttings** in **Crekeload** by the space of one halfe furlong

and beyond. The cellerie of Bury ought to make cleane Streame Middle by the space of one myle. John Ashfield holdeth one part in Lodmere in Creekeload by two furlongs. The Prior of Thetford, the Abbott of Ramsey, and John Champeyne holdeth another part thereof by two furlongs. The Prior of Modney holdeth halfe a parte by two furlongs and more against the Abbott of Ramsey.

There is a draine in Sutton called the Mile, from Middle Ditch unto Suffen Mouth, otherwise Horsey Ferry; and from thence to Middlemore, Stampe, Shakepeake Load, Gungy, Middledich, Northey, to Capload Willowe, soe to Hally Water Tree, and all Barr Load, by the Abbott of Ramsey, from Barr Load End to Prick Haffe, and is to be purged and cleansed by the towne of Mepall; from thence to Wardey by Wicham, Witchford, and Wentworth; from Wardey to Ottenbush by the Lord Scroope; from thence to Downham Hythe, and soe to Many Fields End, by the Bishop of Ely; from Bye Lake at Huney Corner to the Newe Leame by the Abbott of Ramsey; through Dawe Load to Many Fields End to the Mable at Maney Watering, and soe to Chaufer Fen, by the Lord Scroope; from thence to Wellney Water, through Darcey Load, by the Abbott of Ramsey; from thence to the High Streame in Welney by the Bishop of Ely; from Downham Hith to Downham Parke Corner, by the Bishop of Ely, and soe to Littleport Water. Anno 21, H. 8.

Wyde Load beginneth at Four Loads End and dureth unto London Lode, and ought to be cleansed by the town of Well by the space of halfe a myle. The Prior of Thetford and Freires of Berwell ought to make cleane there by the space of twenty and six furlongs. The Prior of Lewes ought to make cleane there by the space of one myle. Anno 15 H. 6.

There is a draine from Upwell to Wellney, and begin-



neth at Thirling Gate, and soe unto William Emmeth's Stow, and to be purged and repayed by the Prior of Marmond and Cannon of Thirling; from thence unto Weddunge Stow by William Damett, the Prior of Lewes, and the cellerie of Ramsey; from thence to St. Petersweyre by Anthony Cotton Knight, Peter Church the Prior of Marmond and cellarie of Ramsey; from thence unto Coleman Drove, by the cellerie of Ramsey; from thence unto the Weyre Dyke, by the Prior of Marmond and the cellerie of Ramsey; from thence almost unto Horninge is to be purged and repayed in forme aforesaid by the Prior of Marmond and the cellerie of Ramsey; from thence unto Harrye With or Wight, by the Prior of Modney; from Harrye Wight unto Friday's Lake's End, by the cellerie of Ramsey, the heires of Colevill, and John Bruden; from thence unto John Gardus Dyke, by the Prior of Marmond; from thence unto John Gardner's Dore, by the heirs of Colevill; from thence unto John Crainford's Water, by the Bishop of Ely; from thence unto Darcey Loade, and soe to Hale's End, by the Abbott of Ramsey; from thence unto Littleport, by the Bishop of Ely. The 21st year of Henry the Eight.

The Water of Neane beginneth within North'ton unto the bridge at Peterborgh, and from thence unto a certeine place called Noemans Lands, and there it outreth into the South Ea, and is distant from the said bridge to Noeman's Land 14 miles by estimac'on. And the same Water of Neane ought to be made cleane and scowred by the Abbott of Peterbourgh and the Abbott of Thorney. And from Noeman's Land unto Dove's Dale ought to be scowred and made cleane by the Abbott of Croyland and the Abbott of Thorney for the space of 4 miles. And from Dovesdale unto Clowes Cross, by the Abbott of Thorney for the South part, and the Abbott of Croyland, the townships of Holbich, Fleete, and Sut-

ton for the North part, by the space of 6 myles by estymac'on. 15 H. 6.

The towne of Whittlesea tyme out of minde ought and were wont to cleanse a sewer called Wittlesea Ditch, viz. from Woodshedd in Wittlesey unto Wardscote in Doddington, that the water may have his course unto the greate river in Wisbech. 15 H. 6.

From the Cross and Borough Streame at Middle Holmes End, dividinge North'tonsheir and Cambr'sheir, is to be cleansed, purged, and scoured by the Abbotts of Peterbourgh and Thorney. From Fincett Cross unto Noemans Land, and to Thirtie Acres Barr, dividinge Lincolnsheir and Cambr'shir, by the Abbotts of Croyland and Thorney. From 30 Acres Barr to Dovesdale, entringe into the South Eae, by the Abbott of Croyland; from thence to Maries Cote, the South part by the Abbott of Thorney, and the North parts by the towneshippes in Holland abbuttinge upon them. From Maries Cote to the next part of Throckenholt, the South part by the hundred of Wesbech, and the North part by the Townes abuttinge upon them. And from that part of Throckenholt to Clowescross, the South part by the Abbott of Thorney and the North part by the tenants of Sutton and Tydd St. Mary. From Clowes Cross to Guyhurne Corner, and soe to the point at my Lord's Water, with the Hundred of Wishbich. From Greate Cross to Grudgman's Lake, by the Abbott of Dereham; from thence to the Mouth by the Bishop of Ely; and from the Mouth to the Sea by the Hundred of Wisbech. 21 H. 8.

The Townes Doddington, Merche, Witheford, and Wimblington ought and were wont and accustomed to ditch and cleanse one sewer called Idenhea, in bredth 32 foote, and from Idenhea Plant unto Redich Lake, soe that the water may have his course unto the greate river in Wisbech, and that the landholders of the lands

and tenements called the Pavements in M'ch aforesaid, tyme out of mynde ought and were accustomed to make and cleane one sewer, Frowards Coate in Doddington unto Wyse Mouth in Wisbech, so that the water may have his course unto the greate river in Wisbech. Anno 15 H. 6.

Oldsmash Load beginneth from Wide Load, and ought to be repayred by the Bishop of Ely by the space of halfe a myle. The Abbott of Dereham and John Aylesham ought to repayre and cleanse there by the space of half a furlong. Anno 15 H. 6.

Cockes Load beginneth at Huney Corner, and endureth unto Many Field End, and is to be repayred by the Abbott of Ramsey; and from Many Fields End unto Harrie Mayes Cote ought to be repayred by the L. Scroope, and also by him unto Many Loads End. 15 H. 6.

Creek Loade beginneth at Four Loads End, from the beginninge at the greate streame of Modney unto a wyllow, by the space of two furlongs, and is to be repayred, clensed, and purged by the Bishop of Ely; from that willow unto Polver Lake, by the space of a mile and more for the one side, by the cellerie of Bury, and for the other side by the priorie of Modney. The priorie of Norwich for the church of Fordham. The Parson of Helgay for his church of Helgay. The landholders for the land late Massinghams, and the land late Berwells, ought to repayre the foresaid sewer called Creek Loade, against the aforesaid cellarie of Bury, from the foresaid willows unto Pulver Lake. The cellarie of Bury hath one halfe part in Partie Myddle in Creekload against all men by the space of 2 miles. The Abbot of Ramsey ought to cleanse and make Balkeweyer abutt upon Cuatt Load, by estymac'on one-quarter of a mile. The Prior of Norwich, the Parson of Helgay, and the landholders of the land late Massinghams and Berwells, ought to repayre unto Four Loads End. Thomas Butler, of

Helgay, ought to cleanse Hoggs Middle in Creek Loade aforesaid, by one furlong. The Duke of Gloucester hath one part in Greate Weyre in Creeke Lode, against all men, by one mile. The Prior of Castle Acre, the Abbott of Wendlinge, and the landholders of the land late Barwells, hath one other part there by the space of one mile. 15 H. 6.

New Ditch beginneth at Wellney Water and soe to Swan Poole, and from thence to Greater Meere and soe to Four Loads End, and is to be cleansed by Thomas Harris, the towne of Littleport, and Abbott of Wendlinge.

Guatt Load beginneth at Hawkins Bytt and dureth unto the Four Loads End, and is to be scoured by the townshipp of Littleport and Ely. 15 H. 6.

Ungemiddle is to be purged for one part by the space of two furlongs against the Prior of Thetford, Thomas Ashfield, and the Abbott of Ramsey, for the lands of Nicholas Orme by the Prior of Modney. 15 H. 6.

Cerdismiddle for one furlong is to be purged by the Prior of Modney and the landholders of the lands late Massinhams. 15 H. 6.

The Newe Leame beginneth at Horsey Ferrey and soe forth to Keies Corner, and is to be scoured by the towne of Chartris; and thence a furlonge by the Abbesse of Chatteris; from that place furlongs by the towne of Chatteris; from thence furlongs by the Abbott of Ramsey; from thence to Doddington Weales by the towne of Chatteris; from thence to the Parkes End by the Bishop of Ely; from thence to Wimblington Hooke by the townes of Doddington and Wimblington; from thence to the High Streame by the town of March. 21 H. 8.

Tyme out of minde the Abbott of Thorney and his predecessors, by reason of their tenure in them, ought and were accustomed to cleanse one sewer, from Muscote in Thorney unto Thorney Barr in the same towne; and

from thence unto Settinglake in Wisbech; and from thence unto Muscote in Thorney; and from thence unto South Eac in Wisbech. 15 H. 6.

Webwinch Lake, for and by the space of two myles, is to be purged by the Abbott of Ramsey. The towne of Well ought to purge from Well Shole by half a myle, and from thence unto Mullicourt by the space of one furlonge, by the Prior of Lynn; and from thence by the space of one mile and more, by the Prior of Lewes; and from thence by the space of three furlongs, by the Bishop of Ely and John Alesham. The Abbott of Ramsey ought to purge the course of water from the North Delph unto Salters Load. 19 Rich. 2.

Darsey Loade beginneth at Wellney Water and soe continueth unto Maney Townesend, and is to be scoured and cleansed by the Bishop of Ely by estimac'on two miles and beyond. The Lord Scroope ought to cleanse and scoure from Darey Load unto Maney Towne's End, by the space of one mile and a half. 15 H. 6.

Small Load beginneth between Well and Outwell, whereof the Abbot of Dereham is to cleanse from the great river in Well unto Ingram's Hurne, three quarters of a mile.

The Abbott of Dereham is to cleanse with John Alesham from Ingram's Hurne to Leaman's Hooke, one mile.

Maydloade beginneth at Wellney Water and dureth unto Schepload, and soe to Sheppie Loade's End, whereof Richard Craniford and Clarie Craniford is to cleanse a furlonge, Mr. William Dunthorne a mile and more with the townshipp of Well, and the same townshipp of Well to cleanse one mile and more. 15 H. 6.

Creeke Load beginneth in the Great Ea, between March and Well, and dureth directly unto Elm, conteyning by estimac'on 6 miles, and to be scoured and made by the Bishop of Ely and the Abbott of Bury equally. 21 H. 8.



John Sambrooke, Prior of Fakenham, is to scoure Shepe Load half a mile. Thomas Bewperie half a mile. The Abbott of Ramsey, half a mile. John Fincham, half a mile. The Prior of Walsingham, three-quarters of a mile. The Prior of Lynn, shall scower three furlongs unto Shepil Loads End.

The Water of Welland beginneth beyond the Towne of Stamford, and so runneth to the Triangle Bridge within the Towne of Croyland, and from thence one part runneth from Spalding Eae, and the other part runneth unto Nomans Land. 15 H. 6.

Tyme out of minde the Abbott of Thorney and his predecessors ought, and were accustomed, for their lands in Throckenholt in Wisbech, to cleanse one sewer in Thorney, from Throckenholt aforesaid unto Clowscross in Lewington, next to the bank of Sutton, called South Eae Dike. 15 H. 6.

Jollies Myddle, by the space of a mile, is to be scoured by the Prior of Thetford. And New Diche unto Wellney Water, is to be purged by the Town of Littleport, Thos. Harris, and the Earle of Worcester, for one mile. 15 H. 6.

Whap Load, Holbich Load, and Fleete Hea, are to be repayred by the said severall Townships. 19 Ric. 2.

The waters on the South side of Ravens Dike have their natural fall from the West to the East, and not Northward. The waters on the North side of Ravens Dike have indifferent passage, to the Sea, so the deepes may bee amended and preserved.

There is a common draine, *viz.* Waterbeure in Wiggenhall, verie insufficient to deliver the abundant of waters from the countrie of Marshland, and ought to be cast and purged by the inhabitants and landholders of Walsoaken, Terrington, Tillney, and Wiggenhall. 28 H. 8.

There is in Marshland a drain called John's Load,

extendinge from the Hooke unto John Load Goole. Alsoe another drain called Bustard's Load, extendinge from the said Hooke unto Bustard's Goole, next the maine river. Alsoe another draine called Griggsload, extending from a place called the Loweway to the Goolehedd at the main river, which is to be sufficiently ditched and scoured by the townshipp of Wiggenghall. Alsoe a draine extendinge from West Fen Ditch to Grigg Goole, is to be repayred by the landholders abuttinge upon the same. Alsoe a draine called Martine Draines within the p'cincts of Wiggenghall, whereby aboundance of salt waters cometh in and cannot gett out again, is and ought to be stopped upp by the Abbott of West Dereham, and by Crabb Howse. Alsoe a drain called Newditch beginneth at the west part of the Common of Stowbardolph Winbotsham and Downham, and so extendeth into the maine river, is is greatly decayed, whereby the countrie is greatly annoyed, and hath been accustomed tyme out mynde to be repayred and kept sufficiently by the commoners of the said townshippe. Alsoe a draine called Rightforth Load is to be scoured by the townes of Outwell and Upwell. Alsoe a draine called Stowbardolf Draine, extending from the North Hook into the Maine River, through a Goole pte'yninge to the charge of the inhabitants of Outwell and Upwell, ought to be cast and scoured by the Lord of Stowbardolph and his tennants. 28 H. 8.

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## No. IV.

SEWERS ACT,  
23 H. 8, c. 5.

1531.

*The Bill of Sewers, with a new Proviso, &c.*

Sewers 1.  
How far the  
Commission of  
Sewers shall  
extend.

OUR sovereign Lord the King, like a vertuous and most gracious Prince, nothing earthly so highly weighing, as the advancing of the common profit, wealth, and commodity of this his realm, considering the daily great damages and losses which have hapned in many and divers parts of this his said realm, as well by the reason of the outrageous flowing, surges, and course of the Sea in and upon marsh-grounds, and other low places heretofore through politick wisdom won and made profitable for the great commonwealth of this realm, as also by occasion of land waters, and other outrageous springs, in and upon meadows, pastures, and other low grounds adjoyning to rivers, flouds, and other water-courses: and over that by and through mills, mill-dams, wears, fishgarths, kedels, gores, gotes, fludgates, locks, and other impediments, in and upon the same rivers and other water-courses, to the inestimable damages of the common wealth of this realm, which daily is likely more and more to increase, unless speedy redress and remedy be in this behalf shortly provided: wherein albeit that divers and many provisions have been before this time made and ordained, yet none of them are sufficient remedy for reformation of the premisses, hath therefore by deliberate advice, assent of his Lords spiritual and temporal, and also his loving Commons in this present Parliament assembled, ordained, established, and enacted, That Commissioners of Sewers,



and other premisses, shall be directed in all parts within this realm from time to time, where and when need shall require, according to the manner, form, tenour, and effect hereafter ensuing, to such substantial and indifferent persons as shall be named by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Treasurer of England, and the two Chief Justices for the time being, or by three of them, whereof the Chancellor to be one.

II. Henry the Eighth, &c. Know ye, That forasmuch as the walls, ditches, banks, gutters, sewers, gotes, calcies, bridges, streams, and other defences by the coasts of the sea, and marsh ground, being and lying within the limits of A., B., or C. in the county or counties of or in the borders or confines of the same, by rage of the sea, flowing and reflowing, and by mean of the trenches of fresh waters, descending and having course by divers ways to the sea, be so dirupt, lacerate, and broken: and also the common passages of ships, balengers, and boats, in the rivers, streams, and other flouds within the limits of A., B., or C., in the county or counties of , or in the borders or confines of the same, by mean of setting up, erecting, and making of streams, mills, bridges, ponds, fishgarths, mill-dams, locks, hebbing-wears, hecks, floud-gates, or other like lets, impediments, or annoyances, be letted and interrupted, so that great and inestimable damage for default of reparation of the said walls, ditches, banks, fences, sewers, gotes, gutters, calcies, bridges, and streams; and also by mean of setting up, erecting, making, and enlarging of the said fishgarths, mill dams, locks, hebbing-wears, hecks, floud gates, and other like annoyances in times past hath hapned, and yet is to be feared, that far greater hurt, loss, and damage is like to ensue, unless that speedy remedy be provided in that behalf.

The form of the Commission of Sewers.

The several causes of awarding the Commission of Sewers.

III. We therefore, for that by reason of our dignity and prerogative royal, we be bound to provide for the

What things the Commissioners of Sew-

ers are authorized to do.

Inquiry by whose defaults the annoyances come.

Assessing the person to be contributory to the charge.

safety and preservation of our realm of England, willing that speedy remedy be had in the premisses, have assigned you, and six of you, of the which we will that A., B., and C. shall be three, to be our justices, to survey the said walls, streams, ditches, banks, gutters, sewers, gotes, calcies, bridges, trenches, mills, mill-dams, floud-gates, ponds, locks, hebbing-wears, and other impediments, lets and annoyances aforesaid, and the same cause to be made, corrected, repaired, amended, put down, or reformed, as case shall require, after your wisdoms and discretions; and therein as well to ordain and do after the form, tenour and effect of all and singular the statutes and ordinances made before the first day of March, in the three and twentieth year of our reign, touching the premisses, or any of them, as also to enquire by the oaths of the honest and lawfull men of the said shire or shires, place or places where such defaults or annoyances be, as well within the liberties as without, (by whom the truth may the rather be known) through whose default the said hurts and damages have hapned, and who hath or holdeth any lands or tenements, or common of pasture, or profit of fishing, or hath or may have any hurt, loss, or disadvantage by any manner of means in the said places, as well near to the said dangers, lets, and impediments, as inhabiting or dwelling thereabouts, by the said walls, ditches, banks, gutters, gotes, sewers, trenches, and other the said impediments and annoyances: and all those persons, and every of them, to tax, assess, charge, distrain and punish as well within the metes, limits, and bounds of old time accustomed, or otherwise, or elsewhere within our realm of England, after the quantity of their lands, tenements, and rents, by the number of acres and perches, after the rate of every person's portion, tenure, or profit, or after the quantity of their common of pasture, or profit of fishing, or other commodities there, by such ways and means, and in such manner and



form as to you, or six of you, whereof A. B. and C. to be three, shall seem most convenient to be ordained and done for redress and reformation to be had in the premisses. And also to reform, repair, and amend the said walls, ditches, banks, gutters, sewers, gotes, calcies, bridges, streams, and other the premisses, in all places needfull: and the same as often and where need shall be, to make new; and to cleanse and purge the trenches, sewers, and ditches, in all places necessary: and further, to reform, amend, prostrate, and overthrow all such mills, streams, ponds, locks, fishgarths, hebbing-wears, and other impediments and annoyances aforesaid, as shall be found by inquisition, or by your surveying and discretions to be excessive or hurtfull; and also to depute and design diligent, faithfull, and true keepers, bailiffs, surveyors, collectors, expeditors, and other ministers and officers, for the safety, conservation, reparation, reformation, and making of the premisses, and every of them, and to hear the accompt of the collectors and other ministers of and for the receipt and laying out of the money that shall be levied and paid in and about the making, repairing, reforming, and amending of the said walls, ditches, banks, gutters, gotes, sewers, calcies, bridges, streams, trenches, mills, ponds, locks, fishgarths, floud-gates, and other impediments and annoyances aforesaid: and to distrain for the arrerages of every such collection, tax, and assess, as often as shall be expedient, or otherwise to punish the debtors and detainers of the same by fines, amerciaments, peins, or other like means after your good discretions: and also to arrest and take as many carts, horses, oxen, beasts, and other instruments necessary, and as many workmen and labourers as for the said works and reparation shall suffice, paying for the same competent wages, salary, and stipend in that behalf: and also take such, and as many trees, woods, underwoods, and timber, and other necessities, as for the same works and

Appointing of  
bailiffs, collec-  
tors, survey-  
ors, and other  
inferiour offi-  
cers.

Distraining for  
the arrerages  
of the money  
assessed.

Taking of la-  
bourers, work-  
men, and car-  
riages, timber,  
and other ne-  
cessaries.

To make statutes and ordinances.

Awarding of writs and precepts of sheriffs, bailiffs, and others.

reparations shall be sufficient, at a reasonable price for you, or six of you, of the which we will that A. B. and C. shall be three, to be assessed, or limited, as well within the limits and bounds aforesaid, as in any other place within the said county or counties near unto the said places : And to make and ordain statutes, ordinances, and provisions, from time to time, as the case shall require, for the safeguard, conservation, redress, correction, and reformation of the premisses and every of them, and the parts lying to the same necessary and behoovefull, after the laws and customs of Rumney-marsh, in the county of Kent, or otherwise, by any ways or means, after your own wisdoms and discretions. And to hear and determine all and singular the premisses, as well at our suit, as at the suit of any other whatsoever, complaining before you, or six of you, whereof A. B. and C. shall be three, after the laws and customs aforesaid, or otherwise, by any other ways and means after your discretions. And also to make and direct all writs, precepts, warrants, or other commandments by virtue of these presents, to all sheriffs, bailiffs, and all other ministers, officers, and other persons, as well within liberties as without, before you, or six of you, whereof the said A. B. and C. to be three, at certain days, terms, and places to be prefixed, to be returned and received ; and further to continue the process of the same, and finally, to doe all and every thing and things as shall be requisite for the due execution of the premisses, by all ways and means after your discretions : And therefore we command you, that at certain days and places, when and where ye, or six of you, whereof the said A. B. and C. to be three, shall think expedient, ye do survey the said walls, fences, ditches, banks, gutters, gotes, sewers, calcies, ponds, bridges, rivers, streams, watercourses, mills, locks, trenches, fishgarths, floudgates, and other lets, impediments, and annoyances aforesaid, and accomplish,

fulfill, hear, and determine, all and singular the premisses in due form, and to the effect aforesaid, after your good discretions: And all such as ye shall find negligent, gainsaying, or rebelling, in the said works, reparations, or reformations of the premisses, or negligent in the due execution of this our commission, that ye do compell them by distress, fines, and amerciaments, or by other punishments, ways or means, which to you, or six of you, whereof the said A. B. and C. shall be three, shall seem most expedient for the speedy remedy, redress, and reformation of the premisses, and due execution of the same: And all such things as by you shall be made and ordained in this behalf, as well within liberties as without, that ye do cause the same firmly to be observed, doing therein as to your justices appertaineth, after the laws and statutes of this our realm, and according to your wisdoms and discretions.

To compell others to obey their orders.

IV. Saved always to us such fines and amerciaments as to us thereof shall belong. And we also command our Sheriff or Sheriffs of our said county or counties of that they shall cause to come before you, or six of you, of the which A. B. and C. shall be three, at such days and places as ye shall appoint to them, such and as many honest men of his or their bailiwick, as well within the liberties as without, by whom the truth may best be known, to enquire of the premisses; commanding also all other ministers and officers, as well within liberties as without, that they and every of them shall be attendant to you in and about the due execution of this our commission. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters patents to be made. Witness our self at Westminster, the                      day of                      in the year of our reign.

A commandment to all sheriffs to return before the Commissioners such jurors as shall be expedient for inquiry.

All other officers shall be attendant unto the Commissioners.

V. And it is also enacted, That every such person as shall be named Commissioner in the said commission, after he hath knowledge thereof, shall effectually put his

The Commissioners shall take an oath.



diligence and attendance in and about the execution of the said commission. And before he shall take upon him the execution of the said commission, he shall take a corporal oath before the Lord Chancellor, or before such to whom the said Lord Chancellor shall direct the King's writ of *Dedimus potestatem* to take the same, or before the Justices of the Peace in the quarter sessions holden in the shire where such commissions shall be directed: the tenor of which oath hereafter ensueth;

The form of  
the oath.

Ye shall swear, That you to your cunning, wit and power, shall truly and indifferently execute the authority to you given by this Commission of Sewers, without any favour, affection, corruption, dread or malice to be born to any manner of person or persons: And as the case shall require, ye shall consent, and endeavour your self for your part to the best of your knowledge and power, to the making of such wholesome, just, equal, and indifferent laws and ordinances, as shall be made and devised by the most discreet and indifferent number of your fellows being in commission with you, for the due redress, reformation, and amendment of all and every such things as are contained and specified in the said commission, and the same laws and ordinances to your cunning, wit, and power, cause to be put in due execution, without favour, meed, dread, malice, or affection: as God you help, and all Saints.

A confirmation  
of other sta-  
tutes.

VI. And it is also enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every statute, act and ordinance heretofore made concerning the premisses, or any of them, as well in the time of our Sovereign Lord the King that now is, as in the time of any of his progenitors Kings of this realm of England, not being contrary to this present act, nor heretofore repelled, from henceforth shall stand and be good and effectual for ever, and to be put in due execution, according to the true meaning and purport of the same.

VII. And over that it be enacted, That the Commissioners hereafter to be named in any of the said commissions, according to the purport and effect of the same commissions, have full power and authority to make, constitute, and ordain laws, ordinances and decrees, and further to doe all and every thing mentioned in the said commission, according to the purport, effect, words and true meaning of the same. And the same laws and ordinances so made, to reform, repell and amend, and make new from time to time, as the cases necessary shall require in that behalf.

The authority  
of the Com-  
missioners.

VIII. Provided alway, and it is enacted, That if any person or persons being assessed or taxed to any lot or charge for any lands, tenements or hereditaments within the limits of any commission hereafter to be directed, do not pay the said lot and charge according to the ordinance and assignment of the Commissioners having power of the execution of the said commission: by reason whereof it shall happen, the said Commissioners having power of the execution of such commission, for lack of payment of such lot and charge, to decree and ordain the same lands, tenements, and hereditaments from the owner or owners thereof, and their heirs, and the heirs of every of them, to any person or persons for term of years, term of life, in fee simple, or in tail, for payment of the same lot and charge; That then every such decree and ordinance so by them made and engrossed in parchment, and certified under their seals into the King's Court of Chancery, with the King's royal assent had to the same, shall bind all and every person and persons that at the making of the same decree had any interest in such lands, tenements or hereditaments, in use, possession, reversion, or remainder, their heirs and feoffees, and every of them, and not to be in any wise reformed, unless it be by authority of Parliament hereafter to be summoned and holden within this realm.

The ordinances  
of Commis-  
sioners upon  
those which re-  
fuse.

The Commissioners decree shall bind the King's and all mens lands.

IX. And also it is provided by authority aforesaid, That the same laws, ordinances and decrees to be made and ordained by the said Commissioners, or six of them, by authority of the said commission, shall bind as well the lands, tenements and hereditaments of the King our Sovereign Lord, as all and every other person and persons, and their heirs, for such their interest as they shall fortune to have, or may have in any lands, tenements or hereditaments, or other casual profit, advantage or commodity whatsoever they be, whereunto the said laws, ordinances and decrees shall in any wise extend, according to the true purport, meaning, and intent of the same laws.

No man may sit being unsworn.

X. And it is furthermore by the authority aforesaid established and enacted, That if any manner of person or persons, of what estate or degree soever he or they be of, that from henceforth do take upon him or them to sit by virtue of any of the said commissions, not being before sworn in form as is aforesaid, and according to the tenor of the oath before specified: Or if any person so named and sworn, do sit as is aforesaid, not having lands, tenements, or other hereditaments in fee simple, fee tail, or for term of life, to the clear yearly value of xl. marks above all charges to his own use, except he be resiant and free of any city, borough, or town-corporate, and have moveable substance of the clear value of one hundred pounds, or else be learned in the laws of this realm, in, and concerning the same, that is to say, admitted in one of the four principal inns of court for an utter barrister, shall forfeit xl. li. for every time that he shall attempt so to doe; the one half thereof to be to our Sovereign Lord the King, and the other half thereof to the use of him or them that will sue therefore by action of debt, bill, plaint or information in any of the King's courts; in which action or suit, no wager of law shall be admitted, nor any essoin or protection shall be allowed.

What land each Commissioner shall have.



XI. And if any action of trespass, or other suit shall happen to be attempted against any person or persons for taking any distress, or any other act doing, by authority\* of the said commission, or by authority of any laws or ordinances made by virtue of the said commission, the defendant or defendants in any such action shall and may make avowry, conusance or justification for the taking of the same distress, or other act doing touching the premisses, or of any of them, alledging in such avowry, conusance or justification, that the said distress, trespass, or other act whereof the plaintiff complaineth, was done by the authority of the Commission of Sewers for lot or tax assessed by the said commission, or for such other act or cause as the said defendant did by authority of the same commission, and according to the tenor, purport and effect of this present act, made the three and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eighth, without any expressing or rehearsal of any other matter or circumstance contained in this present act, or any commission, laws, statutes or ordinances thereupon to be made; whereupon the plaintiff shall be admitted to reply, that the defendant did take the said distress, or did any other act or trespass supposed in his declaration of his own wrong, without any such cause alledged by the said defendant, whereupon the issue in every such action shall be joyned, to be tried by verdict of twelve men, and not otherwise, as is accustomed in other personal actions: And upon the trial of that issue, the whole matter to be given on both parties in evidence according to the very truth of the same.

XII. And after such issue tried for the defendant, or nonsuit of the plaintiff after appearance, the same defendant to recover treble damages, by reason of his wrongful vexation in that behalf, with his costs also in that part sustained, and that to be assessed by the same jury, or writ to enquire of damages, as the cause shall require.

Avowry or justification of a distress taken by reason of the Commission of Sewers.

Where the defendant shall repay damages with his costs of suit.

The wages and fees of Commissioners, clerks, collectors, &c.

XIII. And it is also enacted, That every of the said Commissioners shall have and perceive four shillings for every day that they shall take pain in the execution of this Commission of Sewers, and one clerk by them to be assigned, two shillings for every day, of the rates, taxes, lots, and wains, that shall be assessed or lost by the authority of the said commission, and to be levied and paid by their discretions. And that the said Commissioners, or six of them, shall have power and authority to limit, and assign of the same rates, taxes, lots, and wains, by their discretions, such reasonable sums of money to the said clerk, for writing of books and process concerning the premisses, and to the collectors, expeditors, and such other as shall take pain in due execution of the said commission, as by the discretions of the said Commissioners, or six of them, shall be thought reasonable.

Commissions within the liberty of the dutchy.

XIV. Provided alway, That whensoever, and as often as such commission, as is afore limited, shall be made and directed to any person or persons, for the reformation and amendment of, or in any of the premisses specified in the said commission within the fees, liberties, or possession of the dutchy of Lancaster, that then such Commissioners as shall execute any such commission, shall be always named and appointed by the discretion of the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Treasurer of England, and the said two Chief Justices of either Bench, and the Chancellor of the said dutchy for the time being, or three of them, whereof the said Lord Chancellor and the Chancellor of the dutchy to be two: and that in every such case two commissions shall be awarded and made according to the tenor of the commission above expressed, one thereof under the great seal of England, and the other under the seal of the same dutchy, as beforetime hath been accustomed, any thing afore rehearsed in this present act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

The charge of

XV. And it is further enacted, That the said commis-



sions from time to time, as the case shall require, shall be had and obtained without any money, or other charge to be paid for the seals, or writing of the same, unless it be to the King, two shillings six pence, for the seal of every commission, as hath been accustomed: and for the writing and enrolling of any one commission, five shillings, and not above.

the commis-  
sions.

XVI. And it is further enacted, That every commission to be made by authority of this act shall endure and continue for the term of three years next after the teste of the commission. Nevertheless, after any commission made and delivered out of the King's Court of Chancery, the King's Highness shall always at his pleasure, by his writ of *Supersedeas* out of his said Court of Chancery, at any time discharge as well every such commission, as every Commissioner that shall be made or named by authority of this act. After which discharge, the said Commissioners shall have no power nor authority to proceed in the execution of their commission, nor in any thing by authority of this act.

A Commission  
of Sewers shall  
endure iij. years.

A Commission  
or Commission-  
er discharged  
by supersedeas.

XVII. Provided always, That such laws, acts, decrees and ordinances as shall happen to be made by the said Commissioners, according to the tenor of their commission, or by authority of this act, shall stand good and effectual, and be put in due execution so long time as their commission endureth, and no longer: except the said laws and ordinances be made and ingrossed in parchment, and certified under the seals of the said Commissioners into the King's Court of Chancery, and then the King's royal assent be had to the same: any thing contained in this present act to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.

How long the  
Commissioners  
decree shall en-  
dure.

XVIII. Provided also, That whensoever and as often as such commission as is afore limited, shall be made and directed to any person or persons for the reformation and amendment of, or in any of the premisses specified

Commissions  
into a county  
palatine.

in the said commission within the fees, liberties, and possessions of the principality of Wales, the county palatine of Chester, or within the fees, liberties, and possessions of any other place where there is liberty and jurisdiction of county palatine, that in every such case two commissions shall be awarded and made according to the tenor of the commission above expressed, one thereof under the great seal of England, and the other the usual seal of the county palatine, in manner and form as is above provided for the dutchy of Lancaster, any thing afore rehearsed in this present act to the contrary notwithstanding.

The King's  
royal assent  
shall be certifi-  
ed into the  
Chancery.

XIX. And it is provided, and also enacted, That the royal assent limited to be had unto the laws and ordinances to be made by the said Commissioners, as is abovesaid, shall be certified into the said Court of Chancery under the King's privy seal. And that there shall not any sum of money be paid for the same privy seal: but for the writing of the same certificate under the said privy seal, shall be paid to the writer thereof ij. s. and not above, nor no other nor greater sum for any thing touching or concerning the same certificate under the same privy seal.

Commissions in  
Wales and  
counties pala-  
tine.

XX. Provided alway, That the Chancellors, and such other as shall have the custody of the seals of the said principality of Wales, or the county palatine of Chester, or within the fees, liberties, and possessions of any other place where there is liberty and jurisdiction of county palatine, upon reasonable request, and upon the sight of the commission under the King's great seal of his Chancery, shall without delay make out another commission under the seal of the said county palatine, according to the tenor of the King's commission to them shewed under his great seal: And to those commissioners as shall be named by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, and the two Chief Justices, or by three of them, whereof the Lord

Chancellor to be one, except it be within the fees and liberties of the dutchy of Lancaster, within which fees and liberties the Commissioners shall be named, and commissions made as is afore ordained by this act; any thing contained in the said act, or in any proviso thereunto added and annexed to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. This act is to endure for xx. years. Stat. 3 Ed. 6. 8. made perpetual. Stat. 3 Jac. 14. Regist. f. 127.

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No. V.

1536.

AN INQUISIC'ON taken at Wiggerhall St. Marie the 10th day of May, in the 28th yeare of the raigne of Kinge Henry the Eight, before Roger Townesend and William Paston Knights, William Cunnesbie, Thomas Dereham, John Fincham, Thomas Thursbie, Esqres., Thomas Guybon, and Thomas Prentice Gent.; and other Commissioners by the Kinge's letters patents to them directed, as by the oathes of William Martin Gent., Adam Tovy, William Lawson, Humfrie Nicholl, Thomas Wright and others may appeare. That there is a draine in Emmeth, belonging to a certaine feild called Saffeild and Hansted, extendeth from Emmeth Sidyke on the west part of the same field, and from thence to the Styles, at which place the draines of both the said feilds do meete and joyne, and so run into the Fen from thence, and ought to be cleansed by old custome by the landholders in Suffeild and Hawsted abuttinge upon the same draine, which said draine ought to be from

10 May.  
28 Hen. 8.



brinke to brinke 9 foote and 5 foote deepe. There is another draine in Emmeth, called Church Feild and North Feild Draine, extending from Seadyke Dole unto Huape-more, and from thence eastward unto Whicks Bridge, and soe to Middle Fodder into the Common Sewer or Water Leasure of Marshland called Smeeth Load, and ought to be purged and cleansed by the landholders in the same feilds. Alsoe there is a draine in Emmeth called Newfeild Draine, extendeth from Halloughcrofts on the west, and soe leading to Portesbush, and soe to Hawkins Bridge, and thence to Himgate Dyche, and soe to Noemans Land Corner, and soe unto the Smeeth Load, and is to be purged and cast by the landholders of the same feilds abutting upon the same draine. There is alsoe a draine in Walsoaken called the Maine Draine, which extendeth from Holmes Bridge in Walsoaken on the north part of the towne unto Smeeth Load aforesaid, and is to be purged and repayred by the landholders abutting upon the same draine. There is a draine in Westwalton extending from Gibson's Bridge to the Smeeth Load, which said draine from Gibson's Bridge southward to the Watergate ought to be purged and repayred by the landholders of Walton, and from the Watergate to the Smeethload by the Bishop of Ely, the Prior of Lewes, and the convent of the same place and their successors. There is an old draine extendinge from Clincks Hurne on the north part, and abbutteth upon Neweland Lane on the south hedde, and ought to be made and kept by John Carter. There is another draine in Walton, extendinge from Cross Greene by Hayle Hurne to Loyatt's Wallat the foote of Walton Seadyke, and soe to Gibson's Bridge, and ought to be scoured by the landholders abutting upon the same. The common draine of Terrington, extendinge from Fawkfeild unto Oxowborde, and from thence unto the Smeeth Load, and ought to be purged and repayred by the landholders of Terrington.

And that the said township ought to cast and cleanse and purge one other draine in Terrington, extending through the same town to the Smeeth Load, and thence to the Sea. From Browne's Bridge in Hargate unto Spowe the landholders of Tylney ought to cast and cleanse. Mordyke draine beginneth at Tunnbridge, and soe to the Common Water Leysure called the Wyndbridge. The said townshipp of Tylney with the hamlets ought to purge and cleanse Reed's Draine, beginning at Rosegate, and soe to the Common Waterley Sure. And alsoe Fen Ditch Draine beginneth at the west head of Tylney Drove, and so by the north side of the Fenn Ditch, unto Pollett's Goole, ought to be cleansed by the said township. Alsoe another draine within the same towne beginneth at the west end of More's Green, and extendeth to Creditch, and from thence to Fryth Dych Goole, and soe into the Maine River, and ought to be repaired by the same township. Alsoe another draine called Spellowfield Draine cominge out of Spellowfield, and soe to Mere Greene Draine, overthwhart Meexe's Greene, and ought to be cleansed by the same townshipp. Crowe Goole Draine beginneth at Crowe Goole, and extendeth to Neweland Gate, and from Neweland Gate to Barnwell Cloote, and from thence to Cow Stowpipe, and soe to Rainham Gate, and is to be cleansed by the landholders of St. Peter's Fields, and St. Marie's Fields, and St. Jer-man's Fields in Wiggenhall. Alsoe Wiggenhall Hevedings beginneth at Pickard's Hurne, and soe leading to Hellbottome, being a draine in Wiggenhall Fenn, and is to be ditched and scowered by the landholders of the Farm Fen. Another draine lying from Wiggenhall More unto Sckales Corner, and soe by Newfield Heaveding, between the Spaldgouges and Islington West Drove ought to be repayred by the landholders within the precincts of the Spaldgouges. A draine called Symons Load, extending from a place called the Hooke, and from thence



to Symons Lodegate at the Maine River, ought to be repayed by the said townshipp. Crossload, extending from the Hooke to the Maine River, is to be repayed by the landholders of Wiggshall. A°. 28 H. 8.



## No. VI.

1600.

### GENERAL DRAINING ACT,

43 ELIZ. c. 11.

*An Act for the recovering of many hundred thousand Acres of Marshes, and other Grounds subject commonly to surrounding, within the Isle of Ely, and the Counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Sussex, Essex, Kent, and the County Palatine of Durham.*

Improvement may be made between lords and commoners of great marshes in several counties, and the persons undertaking to keep them perpetually dry, &c.

WHEREAS it is apparent to such as have travelled in the execution of commissions of sewers in the isle and counties aforesaid, that the wastes, commons, marshes, and fenny grounds there subject to surrounding, may be recovered by skilful and able undertakers, whereby great and inestimable benefit would arise to her Majesty, her heirs and successors, disburdening her Highness of many chargeable banks and works of sewers within those surrounded grounds, as the increase of many able subjects, by habitations being there erected, and in like sort profitable unto many her Highness subjects, both bodies politick and corporate, who have estate of inheritance,

and other interest within the same: and for that the draining and making dry and profitable of those surrounded grounds is chiefly hindred, for that the greater part of them are wastes and commons subject yearly to surrounding, wherein divers have common by prescription, by reason of their resiancy and inhabitancy, which kind of commons, nor their interest therein can by the common law be extinguished, or granted to bind others which should inhabit there afterwards; and in that also it appeareth, that the commoners in respect of their poverty, are unable to pay the great charges to such as should undertake the recovery of the same:

II. It may please your Majesty, That by your Highness, and the lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons in this present parliament assembled, and the authority of the same, It may be enacted, That the lord or lords, as well bodies politick or corporate, as any other person or persons whatsoever, of all and every the wastes and commons aforesaid, and the most of the commoners for the particular commons, and likewise the owners and such as have, or shall have interest in any several surrounded grounds lying within or near the same, may contract or bargain for part of such commons, wastes, and severals aforesaid, with such person and persons which will undertake the draining and keeping dry perpetually the severals, wastes, and commons of that quality; which contract and bargain, and conveyances thereupon made, shall be good and available in law to all constructions and purposes, against the said lords of the said soil, and owners of several, and their heirs, successors, and assigns, and all the commoners, and such as shall or might have common or interest there afterwards, according to the contracts, covenants, provisions, and agreements in those conveyances to be specified, and for so much of such commons, wastes, or severals as shall be so contracted or conveyed, to hold and enjoy in severalty to

A bargain between the lords and commoners, in wastes, and the undertakers.

such person and persons, his or their assignee or assignees, as shall or have undertaken the same, in such manner and form as his or their estates and interests are or shall be, by or upon such contracts or agreements, by such conveyances limited and appointed.

Where the  
Queen is  
owner of the  
soil of the  
waste or com-  
mon, or of  
part thereof.

III. Provided notwithstanding, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in all cases where your Highness, your heirs and successors is or shall be lord or owner of the freehold of the soil of such wastes or commons, or any part of the same, that the most part of the commoners in such your Highness soil, shall or may contract, bargain, assign, and set forth, as is aforesaid, part of their common therein, to any person or persons which will undertake the draining of that whole common (according as the lords and the most part of the commoners in the surrounded wastes and commons aforesaid of bodies politick or corporate may do, as is before declared :) which shall bind and be good and available against all the said commoners, their heirs, executors or assigns, and all others that shall hereafter by reason of any their resiancy, claim any common of pasture in the said wastes or common grounds whereof the soil doth or shall pertain to your Majesty, of and for all their interest or claim of common therein, to hold according to the true intent and effect of such contract, bargain, assignment, and conveyances by writing indented, sealed and delivered by the most part of such commoners, as shall be made between the most part of such commoners and such undertakers ; but shall not in any sort be of any effect or validity against your Highness, your heirs, successors, or assigns, or their estate or estates, in or to the soil thereof, except such conveyances be by writing indented in parchment, and one part thereof under the hands and seals of most part of the commoners so contracting the same, certified into your Highness High Court of Chancery, if the wastes or soil shall be of the possessions of your

Highness crown of England: and except your Majesty's royal consent be obtained thereunto, and signified by and under your Highness privy seal, or great seal, and inrolled in your Highness said Court of Chancery, and after such assent so had, signified and inrolled, then the same contracts and covenants shall be good and available to all and every such undertakers, their heirs and assigns, against your Highness, your heirs and successors, according to the provisions, agreements, and covenants so assented unto by your Highness, your heirs and successors: and where they are of the possession of the dutchy of Lancaster, then the said contract, bargain, assignment, of or from your Highness, shall not be of any effect or validity against your Highness, your heirs, successors, and assigns, except such contract and bargain touching the premisses, and such assignment and setting forth of such part of the said undertakers to hold in severalty, be by writing indented in parchment, sealed and delivered by the said commoners, or the most part of them, and the said undertakers, and one part thereof certified under the hands and seals of most part of the commoners, into your Highness Court of the dutchy of Lancaster for the time being, and your Majesty's royal consent, under the seal of the said dutchy obtained thereunto, and there inrolled in that Court: which consent royal being obtained for the soil of such waste, being of the possessions of the crown, and under the seal of the said dutchy, of your Highness soil of such wastes as are of those possessions, the said undertakers, and their heirs and assigns, shall and may enjoy in severalty, the soil of so much waste and common as was so contracted for, assigned and set forth by the most part of your Highness commoners, in such sort and quality as the said undertakers shall hold and enjoy the interest of common, to all intents and purposes.

The Queen's assent under the privy or great seal, and inrolled in the Chancery.

The Queen owner of the wastes, being dutchy land.

IV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That this This statute

shall extend but to so much common as shall be contracted for.

This assignment shall hinder no man's liberty.

Not prejudicial to the ports or havens within eight miles of Yarmouth, or six miles of Lyn.

act, nor any thing therein contained, shall not extend to the impairing, diminishing, letting, taking away, or extinguishing of the interest of the commoners, or any or them, or of the lords or owners of the soil, of, in, or to any part of the residue of the wastes or commons, which is not, or shall not be so set forth or assigned to the undertakers : nor to any franchises or liberties, or waif, stray, leet, lawday, nor other liberties to be used or taken, in the part so to the said undertakers assigned ; but that as well the commoners, and lords and owners of that soil, shall and may enjoy their commons in the residue thereof, and the Queen's Majesty, her heirs and successors, and the lords and owners shall and may have and enjoy such liberties and franchises in such their part as heretofore was lawfully used, and as they, or any of them should or might have done, if this act, or such contract, bargain, and assignment had never been ; any thing in this statute contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

V. Provided always, and be it enacted, That this act, nor any thing therein contained, shall not extend either to any bargain, sale, agreement, grant, conveyance, or assurance, or to the inning, draining, or laying dry of any commons, marshes, or surrounded grounds, whereby, or by means whereof, any of the havens or ports of this realm of England may be in any sort annoyed, impaired, or hindred ; nor to any grounds within eight miles of Yarmouth, or six miles of Lyn within the county of Norfolk.



## No. VII.

WALDERSEA DRAINING ACT, 1605—6.  
4 JAC. 1, c. 13.

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*An Act for the draining of certain Fens and low Grounds in the Isle of Ely, subject to hurt by surrounding, containing above six thousand Acres, compassed about with certain Banks commonly called and named the Ring of Waldersea and Cooldham.*

WHEREAS by the draining of certain fens and low grounds within the Isle of Ely, subject to hurt by surrounding, great benefit may come to the commonwealth, and much profit to the owners of the said grounds, be it therefore enacted by the King's Majesty, the lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Francis Tindal Esquire, Henry Farre and John Cooper gentlemen, (who have undertaken to do their best endeavours to effect the same at their own costs and charges, for the considerations hereafter mentioned) their heirs and assigns, shall have full power and authority by virtue of this act, during the space of seven years next ensuing the end of this present session of parliament, to drain all the fens and low grounds subject to hurt by surrounding in the said Isle of Ely, that lie and be environed with the banks, beginning at Keeks Mill, and from thence by Tower House, to Hobs House, and so to Tilney Horne, from thence to Maries Damme, and so by Elme Leam to Friday Bridge, and from thence by Redmore Dike, and Begdale, and so by Gold Dike to Keeks Mill again: and for the doing thereof to make of new, or to

Certain persons have undertaken to drain the fens in the Isle of Ely.

The limits and bounds to be inned.

The persons  
damified shall  
be satisfied.

repair in all places needful, such and so many drains, loads, dikes, banks, sluices, and other works of sewers, as they shall think meet, not being in marsh land within the old Podike, for conveying to the Sea as well of the sock and downfall, as of the overflowing of rivers and land floods, satisfying the owners of such severals as they shall cut, and such persons as they shall otherwise dam-nify, so much money or other valuable recompence, as by six commissioners of sewers at the least, whereof three inhabiting within the said Isle, and three within the county of Norfolk shall be ordered and set down.

The underta-  
kers shall  
have for the  
inning and  
maintaining of  
the grounds  
surrounded,  
two parts  
thereof.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That immediately after the said grounds shall be drained, according to the true meaning of this act, the said undertakers, their heirs and assigns, for and in consideration thereof, and of the perpetual maintaining and preserving of the same draining, as in this act is hereafter mentioned, shall have, hold, and enjoy to them their heirs and assigns for ever, in severalty, two full parts in three to be divided of all the said fens and low grounds, the same be set out by metes and bounds, before the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and eight, by the several owners of the said fens and low grounds, or in default of any of them, then at any time after by six commissioners of sewers at the least, whereof four inhabiting within the said Isle.

Of whom the  
two parts shall  
be holden.  
The two parts  
shall be dis-  
charged of  
tithes during  
seven years.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said two full parts shall be held of the several lords, of whom the same are now holden, in free and common soccage, by fealty onely for all manner of services, and not in capite, nor by knights service; and likewise that the said two full parts shall be freed from paying any manner of tithes until the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next ensuing the end of seven years after the time limited for the draining aforesaid.



IV. Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if he shall fall out at any time hereafter, that any of the said fen or low grounds, after they be once drained, shall be again surrounded in default of the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, and so do continue at any time between the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary then next following, by the space of two months together, or do so continue at any time between the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel then next following, by the space of one month together, and not in the mean time amended by the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, That then and so often it shall and may be lawful for every owner of the grounds so surrounded, and not amended, by the view and appointment of six commissioners of sewers at the least, whereof four inhabiting within the said Isle of Ely, being assembled for that purpose, to enter into the two full parts which were divided and set forth from his grounds so surrounded, for the said undertakers as aforesaid, and the same to have and enjoy according to his former title, estate, and interest, until the same fens and low grounds so surrounded, shall be recovered again by new draining or repair to the costs and charges of the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

A provision for the owners, if the grounds drained shall be again surrounded.

V. Provided also, That the authority given by this act to the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, for the draining of the said grounds, shall not extend to give any power to cut and drain thorow any other grounds in any other manner, then by the laws and statutes of this realm heretofore made, they may lawfully do.

The undertakers shall not drain through other grounds otherwise than they may do by the law.

## No. VIII.

1616.

## COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

15 J. 1.—A.D. 1616—17.

STATUTES, Lawes, Decrees, Ordinances and Constituc'ons of Sewers, indented, made, enacted, ordered, decreed and established, att severall Sessions of Sewers, holden att Huntington, in the county of Huntington, the foure and twentyeth day of February, in the yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord James, by the grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. the Fiveteenth, and of Scotland, the One and Fivetyeth, before Sir Francis Ford, Knight; Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Barronett; Sir Robert Beville, Knight; Sir John Cutt, Knight; Sir Christopher Cromwell, Knight; Sir Charles Benlowes, Knight; John Pope, Doctor of Lawes; Miles Sandys, William Mendy, Henry Cromwell, senior, Francis Browne, Peter Frankeland, Robert Audelyn, Humphrey Gardiner, Bestney Betts, Esquires; Jerome Beale, Batchelor of Divinity; Robert Buttler, Thomas Glapthorne, and Richard Stacye, Gentlemen, Commissioners of Sewers; amongst others assigned for the countyes of Lincolne, North'ton, Huntington, Cambridge, Norfolkke Marsh, and the isle of Ely.

THE great and vast waters of the rivers of Ouze, neare Weyland and Grant, often overflowing the bankes and brymmes of their defective channells, as itt were con-

spireing the surrounding of the large and fruitfull fenns and marshes in the Isle of Ely and the adjacent countyes, and certeyne selfe conceited, willfull, and overweening persons, out of theyre owne singularity and perverse disposic'ons, noe lesse dangerously threatening the imminent ruyne of those parts, by spurning against the authority and proceedings of those (by whose prudence, care, industry, and diligence, such outrages were wont to bee prevented, avoyded, or suppressed,) by undue and enlawfull practices, under pretext or coulour of law, to question and discourage the Comissioners, their officers, and ministres, and to extenuate the authority of the commission of soe high a nature, large extent, and evident necessity, whereby the said countyes were in great distresse, and the people much distracted and perplexed; upon whose petic'ons and complaints, itt pleased the King's most excellent Majesty to command the lords and others of his privy counsell, to take consideration of the premisses, who after due examinac'on and mature deliberac'on of the justice of the said complaynts, did nott only take present order for punishment of such stubburne and perverse persons as had formerly opposed the power and authority of the Comissioners of Sewers, butt alsoe gave incouragement unto the Comissioners to proceed in their wonted courses for suppressing the violences and preventing the dangers of the sayd overflowing waters, and further promised their patronage and assistance unto them in their wonted necessary and due proceeding, as by theyre honourables letters and ordinances sent unto the Comissioners more evidently appeareth. Which being notyfyed and publicquely read in soe great an assembly of Comissioners and inhabitants of all the countyes of Lincolne, North'ton, Norfolk, Cambridge, Huntington, and the Isle of Ely, as hath seldome been seene togeather att any one tyme before, att a Generall Sessions of Sewers holden at Wis-

beach, the twelvth day of June last past, all the hearers did with enspeakeable joy and gladnesse apprehend, and with all humble thankfullnesse acknowledge his Majestye's most gracious respect of these distressed countryes, and their Lordshipps honourable care in the premisses. Butt the Comissioners thereby encouraged to proceed in the publique service according to his Majestye's said commission to them dyrected, did forthwith give warrant and order for severall returnes to be made of foure and twenty substantiall and sufficient men for jurors of every of the said five counties and of the Isle of Ely, of whom the Comissioners selected thirteene of the most able and best experienced men out of every of the sayd returnes, viz. seaventy-eight in the whole number; did give them in charge personally to take viewe, dilligently to enquire and truely to present upon their oathes all the defaults of all the said rivers and sewers, and all the branches and outfalls of every of them. And after such veiwe and enquiry, the said jurors did upon their said oathes, with a wonderfull and strange agreement and consent, give upp theyre verdict, the sixteenth of September last; whereupon and upon their owne certeyne knowledge, after sundry meetings, and often and serious consultac'ons thereabout, the sayd Comissioners have finally, for the satisfacc'on of his Majestye's expectac'on, the performance of the dyrecc'ons from that honourable board, the advancement of justice, and the publique benefit of the comonwealth, concluded, enacted, ordered, and for lawes of sewers sett downe, decreed, and established as followeth, viz. First, that the great river of Wisbeach from the Sea unto Wisbeach Bridge, and from thence to the Mouth, and so on to Guyhurne Crosse, shall be dyked, cleansed, formed, scowrered, and perfected, to the ancient breadth and to the old bottome, by those who of right ought to doe the same, viz. from the Sea unto Wisbeach Bridge and soe to the Mouth, by the hundred of

Wisbeach  
River, from  
Sea to the  
Bridge, thence  
to Guyhurn.

Wisbech hun-  
dred from  
South to the  
Mouth.

Wisbeach; and from the Mouth to the Guyhurne Crosse, by the Lord Bishopp of Ely, his farmers, or tenants. And that the sayd workes shall bee done, finished, and perfected, before the twentyeth day of June next coming, upon paine of three shillings fourepence to bee forfeited to his Majesty for every rood or perch nott sufficiently perfected by the day aforesayd. And that the branch of the river of Neane, called the New Leame, al's Moreton's Leame, shall be likewise dyked, cleansed, formed, and scoured, to the antient breadth and old bottome, by those who of right ought to doe the same, viz. from Guyhurne Crosse to Medfrukoe, by the hundred of Wisbeach, for their comon in the High Fenn; and from thence to Musdyke, by the inhabitants of Whittlesey; and from the Musdyke unto Standground Staff, by the heirs or assigns of Sir Anthony Mildmay, their farmers or tenants, before the twentyeth day of July next coming, under payne of three shillings foure pence for every rood where shall bee any default; and that all gravells, dames, driftways, passages, wares, slamps, slackes, cradgings, howses, milles, incroachments, and other letts and impediments hindring the fall of the waters, being within the lymitts aforesaid, viz. betweene Standground Staffe and the Sea, shall bee amoved, avoyded, and utterly taken away, before the said twentyeth day of July next coming, by such persons as of right ought to doe the same, upon paine of five poundes for every default. And that the Old Ea being another branch of the river of Neene, from Claylake unto Middlehome hard att Bulldyke End neere Peterborough, shall be roaded and cleansed to the old bottome and antient breadth, and all dames and other stopps therein, shall be avoyded and utterly taken away by the Deane and Chapter of Peterborough, or theyre tennants. And from Clay Lake to Thorney Crosse, the sayd sewer shall be likewise roaded, cleansed, and bottomed, by the lord of the Cokenary of Whittle-

Lord Bishop of Ely, from the Mouth to Guyhurn.

Moreton's Leam.

Guyhurn to Medfrukoe, hundred of Wisbeach, thence to Musdyke, by inhabitants of Whittlesey.

Musdyke to Standground Staff, by Anthony Mildmay.

Old Eau.

Old Eau from Claylake to Middlehome hard at Bulldyke, by D. and C. of Peterborough.

Clay Lake to Thorney Cross, Lord of the Cokenary of Whittlesey.

Catswater  
Sewer to Fyn-  
sett Crosse.

East side by  
Lord Russell.

West by the  
Bishop of  
Peterborough.

To Foochwil-  
low, and from  
thence to  
Henry Dike  
and to Perkins  
Cote, by Lord  
Russell.

Thorney  
Water, from  
Thorney Crosse  
to Wride Ware,  
by Lord Rus-  
sell.

From Wryde  
Ware to High  
Fenn Dike, by  
the Common-  
ers in Wis-  
bech High  
Fen.

High Fenn  
Dike and  
South Eau.

From Guy-  
hurne Crosse to  
Clows Crosse,  
by Wisbech,  
Lewington,  
Newton, and  
Tydd St. Giles.

Clows Crosse to  
Hallgates, by  
Subon cum  
Membris and

sey, or the farmer thereof. And that the sewer there, called Catswater, from Thorney Crosse to Fynsett Crosse, shall bee likewise diked, scoured, and cleansed, to the ancient breadth and depth, by the Right Honourable the Lord Russell, or his tennants or farmers for the lordshipp of Thorney, on the East side; and on the West side, by the Lord Bishopp of Peterborough, or his farmers. And that the said sewer, called Cattswater, unto Foochwillow, and from thence to Henry Dike, and from Henry Dike to Perkins Coate, shall be likewise roaded, haffed, and cleansed, by the said Lord Russell, or his tennants, before the twentyeth of August next comeing. And that Thorney Water, from Thorney Crosse to Blacksyke, and soe forth unto Thorney Gate, and from thence to Bawteshead and soe to Wryde Ware, shall bee roaded, haffed, cleansed, and scowered sufficiently, to the antient breadth and to the old bottome, by the said Lord Russell, his tennants, or farmers; and that from Wryde Ware downe Wryde Lake unto High Fenn Dyke, the said sewer shall bee likewise haffed, roaded, cleansed, and dyked, by the comoners in Wisbech High Fen, to the antient breadth and to the old bottome, before the said twentyeth of August, upon the paynes before specifyed. And it is further ordayned, enacted, and established and decreed, that the river called High Fenn Dike and South Ea, being also a branch of the river of Neene, shall be well and sufficiently dyked, haffed, cleansed, roaded, scowered, enlarged, wydened, and perfected, by such as of right ought to doe the same, to the ancient breadth and depth, from Guyhurne Crosse unto Clows Crosse, viz. to the breadth of forty foot and six foot in depth, by the townes of Wisbeech, Lewington, Newton, and Tydd St. Gyles, as heretofore hath been accustomed; and from Clows Crosse to Halgates, by the inhabitants and landholders of Subon cum Membris and Tydd St. Marye's, theyre

tennants and farmers, on the North part; and the Lord of Tykenholt, on the South part, their farmers or tenants, before the twentyeth day of August next coming, upon paine of three shillings and fourer pence, for every rood not being sufficiently done and perfected by the day aforesaid; and from Hallegates to Goldyke, by the inhabitants and landholders of Gedney and Subon cum Membris, soe far as their limitts extend on the North part; and by the inhabitants and landholders of Subon cum Membris, their tenants and farmers, wholly on the South part, by the day aforesayd, and upon the paine aforesayd; and from Goldyke to Dawesdale, on the North syde, by the inhabitants, landholders, farmers, and land occupiers, of the townes of Whaplode, Holbeach, Fliett, and Gedney, every townshipp soe farr as their particuler lymitts doe extend; and on the South syde, by the lord and owners of Thorney, their tenants and landowners, by the day aforesaid, and upon the paine aforesaid; and from Dovesdale to Norman's Land, on the North syde, att the Princes charge, his tenants or landholders of Crowland; and on the South side, by the Lord of Thorney, or his tenants or landholders, by the day aforesaid, and upon the paine aforesaid. And itt is further ordayned, enacted, and decreed, that the river of Welland from his outfall into the Sea upwards unto Crowland, and from thence to Stamford Bridge, shall bee well and sufficiently dyked, haffed, cleansed, scoured, and perfected, to the antient breadth and to the old bottome, by such as by right ought to doe the same, according to the former lawes and decrees to that end made and provided, before the twentyeth day of June next comeing, upon paine of three shillings foure pence, for every rood nott being so perfected at the day aforesaid. And that all damms, wares, slampes, slakes, cradgings, skelmes, houses, incroachments, and other letts and impediments to the fall

Tidd St.  
Mary's, on the  
north part;  
and the Lord  
of Tykenholt,  
on the south.

Hallegates to  
Goldyke, by  
Gedney and  
Subon cum  
Membris, on  
the north; and  
by Subon cum  
Membris,  
south.

Goldyke to  
Dawesdale, by  
Whaplode,  
Holbeach,  
Fliett, and  
Gedney.

Dovesdale to  
Norman's  
Land, on the  
North side, at  
the Prince's  
charge;  
South side, by  
the Lord of  
Thorney.

Welland River.



	of the waters being in any part of the sayd river between Stamford Bridge and the outfall thereof, shall be removed, avoyded, and utterly taken away, and all gravells reformed and made with the upper part thereof levell to the old bottome of the rest of the sewer where they lye, before the twentyeth of June aforesaid, by such persons as ought to doe the same. And that all the outring banks from Dowesdale to Crowland, conteyning by estimac'on fower miles, shall be amended and repaired in heighth at the charge of the Prince, or his tennants and landholders, of Crowland; and that the bank from Crowland to Clouthouse, conteyning by estimac'on three miles, shall be also repaired and heightened at the said Prince's charge, his tennants or landholders; and that threescore roodes of the said banke shall bee repaired in like manner by Robert Chapman, clerke, or his assignes; and that two roodes and a halfe of the said banke shall bee likewise repaired by William Abbott, or his assignes; and that two roodes and a halfe there shall be likewise repaired by Widdow Durant, or her assignes; and that two roodes and a halfe of the said banke shall bee likewise repaired by Stephen Sowcroft, or his assignes; and two roods and a halfe shall bee likewise repaired by Hugh Wych, or his assignes; and that five roods of the said banke shall be likewise repaired by one Symon Morley, or his assignes; and that foure roods there shall be likewise repaired by Thomas Dixon, or his assignes, before the twentyeth day of October next. And whereas the two great rivers of Ouze and Grant being vented neere Harrymeere Lee, often tymes power downe such abundance of waters, that the channell from and under the said vinon, hath never been sufficient to conteyne or convey the same, but hath therefore been (though weakly) supplied on the East and upper part thereof, by a sewer called the Old Ea, beginning att the said channell neere Harrymeer aforesaid, and falling by Cowlode,
Outring banks, Dowesdale to Crowland, at the charge of the Prince.	
Crowland to Clouthouse, the same.	
60 roods by Robert Chapman.	
2½ roods by William Abbott.	
2½ roods by Widow Durant.	
2½ roods by Stephen Sowcroft.	
5 roods by Symon Morley.	
4 roods by Thomas Dixon.	
Ouze and Grant.	
Old Eau.	

and soe by Stuntney High Bridge and the Sellowes into the said channell of Ouze againe; and on the West and Padnall Lake. lower part thereof by another sewer, called Padnall Lake, extending from the said maine channell of Ouze unto Clay Way, and soe falling by the Delph into the said channell againe att Littleport Chayre; which said supplying sewers being very crooked and narrow, and in many places almost utterly growne upp, and soe being become insufficient and unprofitable, the Commissioners of Sewers, upon sundry verdicts and presentments made by the inhabitants in those parts, and likewise upon certeyne views personally by themselves made, did, for the supplying of the said defects of the said channell of the said river of Ouze, make two lawes of sewers, the one dated the nynth day of June, Anno Dom. 1609, and the other in the eighth day of August in the said yeare, thereby intending to provide more sufficiently for the supplying of the said defects of the said channell of the said river of Ouze, by making two sewers in or neere the places of the said old sewers, cutt much more large and lyne streight than the former; and by virtue of the said lawes, did begin the sayd workes, and proceeded to perfect neere about eight hundred perches thereof, even untill the sayd workes were disturbed and hindred by a few quarellous, and contentious and refractory persons, making question of the power of the said Commissioners in this behalfe, and bringing severall acc'ons against their officers and ministers for the taxes assessed for the said workes. Now, therefore, the said intended sewers being again approved and allowed by such and soe great a number of jurors as have now also with great earnestnesse entreated the proceedings therein, as by their verdict appeareth, It is ordeyned, decreed, and for a law sett downe, that the aforesaid law of sewers dated the eighth day of August, Anno Dom. 1609, and in the seventh year of his Majestye's reigne, and all and sin-

gular the branches, articles, provisoes and clauses therein conteyned and specified, shall be and remain from henceforth revived, ratified, established, strengthened and confirmed to all intents and purposes, according to the true meaning and intent thereof, in as ample manner and form as if the said law were or had been particularly and word for word mentioned in these presents; and that the said workes shall be begun againe and proceeded unto the perfecting thereof, with as much speed as conveniently may bee. Provided allwayes, that the said Commissioners of Sewers, being and remaining in the countyes of Cambridge and Huntingdon, and in the said isle of Ely, or any six of them, may and shall from tyme to tyme, as occasion shall require, nominate and appoynt officers for the sayd workes, and stipends, fees, wages, rewards, and salaryes for their paynes in that behalfe, by their wisdomes and discrecions, any thing in the said lawe to the contrary notwithstanding. And that all such officers and other p'sons to bee employed by virtue of the said law respectively, shall lay forth the said workes, provide necessaryes for the same, pay labourers, discharge all debts and dutyes concerning the same, make their accompts, and doe all other acts according to their severall plans, as if they were or had been specially named in the said law att the making thereof, and that every of them offending against any clause thereof, shall forfeite and incurr the penalty for every such offence, in like manner respectively. And itt is also ordayned, enacted, decreed, and established, that the river of Ouze aforesaid, from Harrymeer upwards unto Over Cote, shall be well and sufficiently dyked, haffed, cleansed, scowered, and perfected, to the ancient breadth and to the old bottome, by such as of right ought to doe the same, before the fourteenth day of July next. And that all wares, damms, driftways, passages, gravells, slamps, slakes, cradgings, hills, houses, encroachments,

River Ouze,  
Harrymeer to  
Over Cote.

and all other letts and impediments hindring the fall of the waters within all the aforesaid limitts of Ouze, shall bee removed, avoyded, and utterly taken away, according to former lawes and decrees to that end made and provided. And itt is ordayned, decreed, provided, and for a law sett downe and established, that the great and maine arme of the said river of Ouze, called the West Water, descending from the said river by Erith Bridge, and so falling on the West part of the isle of Ely, shall bee digged, formed, haffed, cleansed and scowered, from Erith Bridge unto Beuwicke, where itt meeteth and joyneth with the river of Neene, unto the ancient breadth and to the old bottome, by such as of right ought to doe the same. And that one branch of the said mayne arme, called Sutton Lode, from the said Westwater unto the outfall thereof into Wellney Water, shall be dyked, halfed, scowered, cleansed, enlarged, and all gravells, driftwayes, wares, slamps, slakes, cradgings, incroachments, and other letts, stayes, impediments and annoyances in the same, shall be removed, avoided, and utterly taken away, according to the law of sewers to that end made and enacted, the three and twentyeth day of August, Anno Dom. 1609, before the last day of June next comeing. Provided alwayes, that all those who ought to performe the said workes doe accomplish the same accordingly, from the said outfall att Wellney Water upwards unto the said West Water. And that Ouze Dytych being one other branch of the said West Water, falling out of the same betweene Holwood and Old Halfe, and soe to Sutton Weales, shall be likewise dyked, haffed, scowered, cleansed and perfected, by such as of right ought to doe the same, before the last day of June next, upon paine of three shillings foure pence, for every rood defective. And that Chatterice New Leame, falling alsoe forth of the said West, beneath Chatteris Ferry to Keyes Corner, and soe to Chatteris Towne, and from

West Water.

Sutton Lode.

Ouze Ditch.

Chatteris New  
Leam.



thence to Doddington Parke, and from thence to Wimblington Hooke and to March Streame, and from thence to Elme Leam unto Elme Towne, and soe into Wisbeech great river, shall be well and sufficiently dyked, haffed, cleansed, formed, scowred and perfected, to the antient breadth and to the old bottome, by such as of right ought to do the same, before the last day of June next coming, upon paine of three shillings foure pence for every rood which shall be defective. And that all dams, driftwayes, wares, slamps, slakes, cradgings, houses, mills, and such gravells as doe lye higher or above the levell of the soyle or old bottome of the sayd sewers, and all other incroachments, letts and impediments in the said sewers, shall be removed, amended, repaired, or utterly taken away, before the twentyeth day of July next. Provided alwayes, that the said workes shall be begun att the neyther end of the sayd sewers, and proceed upwards. And also, it is ordeyned, enacted, and decreed, that Ea Brinke, in Elme, from Fryday Bridge unto the Towne Dam there, shall bee repaired and amended in heyghth and breadth, in such wise that itt be as high and fenceable as the other bankes adjoying, by the landholders of Redmore who are adjoysted in the same, before the last day of June next comeing, upon paine of three shillings fourepence for every rood which shall be then defective. And that Mayd Load and Shipp Loade, extending from Wellney Water unto the maine river of Ouze and London Lode, lying on the other side of the Londoners Groundes, and falling from the said water of Wellney unto Wall Creeke, and soe by North Delphe unto Salteires Lode, shall likewise bee dyked, cleansed, formed, haffed, scowred and perfected, from syde to syde unto the old bottome, by such as of right ought to doe the same, before the last day of June next comeing, upon paine of five shillings for every rood which shall be defective after the said day. And that

Ea Brink in  
Elm, from Fri-  
day Bridge to  
the Towne  
Dam, by the  
landholders of  
Redmore.

Mayd Lode and  
Shipp Lode.

London Lode.

Darcy Eau.

Darcy Ea, extending itself from Wellney River towards Stoney Ditch, belonging to the Mannor of Doddington, and the said sewer extending thence to Maney Ea and soe to Cox Load, and soe to Dallingsditch, and from thence to Doddington Bame, shall be dyked, formed, haffed, scowered and cleansed, from syde to syde unto the old bottome, by such as of right ought to do the same, before the last day of June next comeing, upon paine of three shillings fourpence for every rood defective. And that all other com'on dreynes, loades, and sewers within the tract of the said river of Ouze, shall be opened, scoured and cleansed, to thé antient breadth and to the old bottome, by such as of right ought to do the same, before the ende of August next. And for the preservac'on, contynuance, and maintenance of the said rivers, sewers, loades, lakes, trenches, and other the premisses, It is ordered, enacted, and decreed, that the said rivers of Nene and Welland, and all the branches of them and of every of them to their outfalls, shall be well and sufficiently roaded, rooked, hooked, haffed, scowered and cleansed, from side to side and to the old bottome thrice every yeare, viz. in the monthes of May, June, and July, by the owners or occupiers thereof respectively. And also, that noe person or persons shall from thenceforth make, or cause to be made, any dames, wayes, gravells, wares, slamps, slakes, flakes, herdells, cradgings, incroachments, or other annoyances or impediments, in or over any of the said rivers, sewers, and draines, lakes, or other the premisses, or any part of them, upon paine of forfeiture of five poundes for every such offence, to be leavyed to his Majestye's use upon every such offender, unless such dams be made only for the cleansing of such dreynes and sewers, and soe that the same be taken away within one day after such worke shall cease or be left off. Provided alwaies, that itt shall and may bee lawfull to make or suffer any gravell way

Rivers Neene  
and Welland.

Clowes Crosse  
Drain.

in any of the said waters, soe that the upper part of the same gravell bee laid leuell with the old bottome of the said water where the same gravell shall be or remaine lower then the same. And whereas itt is to be feared that whilst the said rivers of Neene and Welland with their branches are in dykeing and amending, that the waters of the said river will much prejudice the adjacent countreyes by dames and stopps therein of necessity to be made for that tyme, unlesse good provission be made for carryage of those waters unto the Sea whilst the said workes are in doeing. The considerac'on whereof, especially moveing the lords of his Majestye's privy councill, by their order to appoint that Clowes Crosse Dreyne should runn for that purpose until South Ea were dyked, and for as much as the Fenn Clow of the said drayne and the bankes thereunto belonging, have been lately presented to bee decayed and defective, so as for the safeguard of the country lying under the same, the said clow was and yett is damed upp. Itt is now enacted, ordered and decreed, that Mr. John Browne, Mr. Everard Buckworth, Mr. Richard Colevill, Mr. John Fincham, Mr. Thomas Wellby, Mr. Beville Wimberley, Mr. Robert Buttler, Mr. Peter Edwards, Mr. Euseby Catesby, Mr. Thomas Glapthorne, Mr. Richard Stacy, or as many of them as can meet at the Shiregoate upon the six and twentyeth day of March next, shall personally take a view of the said decayes and defects, and thereupon relate to the Commissioners of Sewers att the next session of sewers now appoynted to bee holden att the Angell in Stilton, upon the last day of March next, what in their best estimac'on will bee the charge of repairing the said clowe and banke, to the end the Commissioners then assembled may forthwith give order for the rateing, taxing and leavying of moneyes for the repairing and amending of the same, which being perfected, itt is now also ordered, that the said dreyne shall




bee opened to runn within bankes according to former lawes, and also that the said veiwers shall then consider of the conveying of the waters of Clowscrosse unto King's Creeke according as heretofore itt hath been projected, and thereupon make report of their opinions att the said session. Itt is alsoe enacted, ordered and decreed, that the banke at South Land End, presented to bee cutt by the inhabitants of Crowland, to lett the waters of Welland runn into Borrough Great Fenn, al's Eye Fenn, to the great hinderance of the comoners there, and prejudice of the outfall att Spalding, by diverting the water of the said river forth of his annient course, shall bee well and sufficiently repaired and made by the comoners in the said fenn, before the five and twentyeth day of March next comeing, upon paine of twenty shillings to bee forfeited for every rood thereof nott sufficiently then done. And that if the said comoners neglect or faile in repairing thereof untill the said day passed, That then Mr. William Hacks and Mr. Eusaby Catesby shall be surveyors, and shall performe the said worke, and take or leavy by distresse their charges expended therein, after the rate of six pence for every fower pence soe by him or them laid forth in the premises. And if the said surveyors neglect or fayle to see the sayd worke performed according to this decree, that then each of them shall forfeite twenty poundes to his Majestye's use, to be levyed of their goods and chattells by distress or otherwise. And itt is further enacted, ordered and decreed, That if any person, body pollitiq or corporate, shall faile or make default in any workes whatsoever menc'oned in this law, soe that the same bee not done and perfected sufficiently by the dayes lymitted hereby for the performance thereof, that then and in every such case, the surveyors hereafter menc'oned and appoynted, or any one of them respectively, shall doe and performe every such worke wherein shall bee any

Bank at South  
Land End, by  
the common-  
ers.

default after the dayes aforesaid, before the last day of November then next ensuing, upon paine of one hundred poundes to bee forfeited to his Majestye's use, by every of them for every such default, and that they and every of them, within his or their several lymitts, having performed any of the said workes, or any part of any of them, shall bee allowed and authorized by these presents to leavy upon the landes, tenements, goods or chattells of every such delinquent, all such sumes of money as they or any of them shall have disbursed in and upon the premises, after the rate of six pence for every foure pence thereupon by them or any of them soe expended. And itt is enacted, ordered and decreed, That Eusaby Catesby and Thomas Glapthorne, gentlemen, shall bee surveyors of the said workes in Wisbeech River from the Sea unto Midd Fenn Tree; and from Midd Fenn Tree unto Musdyke, Sir Francis Faune and Sir Humphrey Ormes shall bee surveyors; from Musdyke to Stanground Staffe, Sir Robert Beville and Sir William Fitzwilliams shall bee surveyors; and that from Guyhurne Crosse to Crowland Bridge, Matthew Robinson and Nicholas Evington shall bee surveyors; and that from High Fenn Dyke unto Wride Weare, Sir Robert Bevill and Mr. William Hackes shall bee surveyors; and that from Wride Weare unto Thorney Goate, and from thence by Blacke Stile unto Thorney Crosse, Sir Humphrey Ormes and Mr. Wm. Hacke shall bee surveyors; and that from Newmans Land unto Thorney Crosse, and from thence unto Bull Dyke, Mr. Robert Browne and Mr. Francis Quarles shall bee surveyors; and that in the river of Welland from the Sea unto Spaulding, and soe to Crowland, Sir William Welby and Mr. Thomas Middlecourt shall bee surveyors; and that from Crowland to Waldram Hall, and soe to Stamford Bridge, Sir Francis Faune and Sir Robert Beville shall bee surveyors; and that for the West Waters and their branches, surveyors

are appointed as followeth, viz. from the outfall of Sutton Load att Wellney Water, unto the head thereof att the West Water, Mr. Henry Cromwell and Mr. Peter Franckland shall bee surveyors; and that from Wisbeech Great River unto Elme, and soe to March Streame, and soe by Wimblington Hooke to Doddington Parke, and soe to Chatteris, and soe the Westwater, Mr. William Wendy, Mr. John Pope, Leg<sup>a</sup> Dob<sup>a</sup>, and Mr. Humphrey Beale, shall bee surveyors; and that for the maine river of the West Water from Beuwick to Erith Bridge, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir John Cutts, Sir Phillipp Crumwell, Sir Edward Hind, Mr. Henry Crumwell, Mr. Robert Audley, and Mr. Humphrey Gardiner, shall bee surveyors.

Nich. Massye, Phillipp Crumwell, Miles Sandys, Robert Beville, William Wendy, Milcs Sandys, P. Frankland, Ro. Hu. Gardiner, Thomas Glapthorne.



default after the dayes aforesaid, before the last day of November then next ensuing, upon paine of one hundred poundes to bee forfeited to his Majestye's use, by every of them for every such default, and that they and every of them, within his or their severall lymitts, having performed any of the said workes, or any part of any of them, shall bee allowed and authorized by these presents to leavy upon the landes, tenements, goods or chattells of every such delinquent, all such sumes of money as they or any of them shall have disbursed in and upon the premises, after the rate of six pence for every foure pence thereupon by them or any of them soe expended. And itt is enacted, ordered and decreed, That Eusaby Catesby and Thomas Glapthorne, gentlemen, shall bee surveyors of the said workes in Wisbeech River from the Sea unto Midd Fenn Tree; and from Midd Fenn Tree unto Musdyke, Sir Francis Faune and Sir Humphrey Ormes shall bee surveyors; from Musdyke to Stanground Staffe, Sir Robert Beville and Sir William Fitzwilliams shall bee surveyors; and that from Guyhurne Crosse to Crowland Bridge, Matthew Robinson and Nicholas Evington shall bee surveyors; and that from High Fenn Dyke unto Wride Weare, Sir Robert Beville and Mr. William Hackes shall bee surveyors; and that from Wride Weare unto Thorney Goate, and from thence by Blacke Stile unto Thorney Crosse, Sir Humphrey Ormes and Mr. Wm. Hacke shall bee surveyors; and that from Newmans Land unto Thorney Crosse, and from thence unto Bull Dyke, Mr. Robert Browne and Mr. Francis Quarles shall bee surveyors; and that in the river of Welland from the Sea unto Spaulding, and soe to Crowland, Sir William Welby and Mr. Thomas Middlecourt shall bee surveyors; and that from Crowland to Waldram Hall, and soe to Stamford Bridge, Sir Francis Faune and Sir Robert Beville shall bee surveyors; and that for the West Waters and their branches, surveyors

monds, Knight, one of the clerks of his Majesty's Privy Council, as an indifferent person nominated by their lordships, to be present at the next court of sewers to be holden for those parrs, directing himself upon view of all outfalls, and information of the countrey, of the true state of that affair, and thereupon to make report to the board, that such final order might be taken as should be found most requisite for the general good and safety of those parts: which he having faithfully performed according to his instructions, and thereof given an exact and particular account in writeing under his hand, to their lordships full satisfaction and contentment; which was this day read at the board, and is hereafter entered verbatim in this register of council causes. Their lordships in their wisdoms considering the great weight and importance of the service, and how necessarily it requireth some speedy remedies to be put in execution for redressing whatsoever error hath been, either by miscarriage, negligence, or for private respects committed or continued in the proceeding of the said commission of sewers heretofore, whereby such a rich and fruitfull portion of the kingdome standeth yet in danger to be lost, are pleased and so have ordered, that the Earl of Arundell, Lord Bishop elect of Winchester, Lord Carew, Mr. Treasurer and Mr. Comptroller of his Majesty's Household, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Master of the Rolls, and Sir Edward Coke, or any four of them, shall take some time as soon as conveniently they may, to consider of the state of that business, and of every particular containd in the aforesaid report of Sir Clement Edmonds, calling him unto them, and such gentlemen as be of the commission of sewers, and do here attend for that purpose; and upon debate among themselves to prepare some opinion to be delivered to the board as in their wisdom and judgment they shall see cause, what

present course is fit to be taken therein {for the reformation intended, and for the safety of those countries and the perpetual good of his Majesty's people therein inhabiting.

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## No. X.

### 1618. SIR CLEMENT EDMOND'S REPORT.

THE REPORT of Sir Clement Edmonds, Knight,  
made to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council,  
of the State of the Penns, upon a generall view  
taken in August, 1618.

ACCORDING to their lordships order of the 19th of June last, concerning the differences arising upon the execution of the commission of sewers for the counties of Northampton, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely, &c. I repayred to the town of Huntington the 12th day of August last, and was present at the generall session of sewers, which by their lordships said order was appoynted to be held at that place, where most of the principal knights and gentlemen commissioners for those parts were then met together: at which session, for their better direction and proceeding, it was ordered that three commissioners of each county should be chosen to view the out-falls, and informe themselves of the true state of that affaire; and to that purpose they should the first day go downe the River of Ouze to Ely, and take view of such



things by the way as were in difference, or otherwise needed reformation.

And from thence the next day down the said river to the outfall at Lynn, with the like view and observations : the third day from Lynn to Wisbech, to see the outfall of the River of Noane, and there to stay two days, as well for viewing of the draynes and sewers thereabouts, as the outfalls thereof : the fifth day up to Croyland, and by the way to view Clow's Cross, Southeae, and other inland sewers : the sixth day to Spalding, to view the Outfall of the river of Welande ; and from thence the seventh day to Peterborough, to which place the session was adjourned to receive the report of that view. All which was accordingly performed by the committee hereunder named ; for Northamptonshire Sir Francis Fane, Mr. Catesby, Mr. Edwards ; for Huntingtongshire Sir Oliver Cromwell, Sir Robert Bevill, Mr. Henry Cromwell, senr. ; for Cambridge Sir John Cutts, Sir Richard Cox, Mr. Colville ; for Norfolk Mr. Earvill, Mr. Fincham, Mr. Butler ; for Lincolne Sir George Manners, Sir William Welby, Bantry ; for the Isle of Ely Sir Miles Sandys, Sir Simeon Steward, Mr. Buckworth, together likewise with my Lord Russell, who though he came after the committee was agreed upon, yet went along with the company and gave great assistance to the business.

The River of Ouze coming along by the towne of Bedford, Huntington, and St. Ives, and so passing down to his outfall at Lynn, is a goodly fair river throughout, and from Ely downwards runneth with such a current, that as it is absolutely the best sewer of all that countrey, so is it by occasion of the great fall of waters thereunto as well from the River of Grant out of Cambridgeshire as from the draynes out of the Isle of Ely, much overcharged in winter and in time of flouds, to the prejudice of the adjacent parts : for remedy whereof former times

have provided some, by sewers or slackers, and amongst other the West Water at Erith Bridge, below St. Ives, to receive great part of the overcharge of water, and to ease the river where it was narrow and square and the country apt to be overflown, and to carry it through the Isle of Ely, (though otherwise to their prejudice) down below again into the same river by divers draynes and inlets, where the channel for breadth and depth affords better passage and conveyance to the sea: but now the said Westwater doth run a contrary course for want of cleanseing and dikeing, and falleth into the Ouze at Erith Bridge, where it should take his course out, as appeared upon view of the committees, to the overchargeing of the said river instead of slackeing or disburthening the same.

The country along the river side, both in Cambridge-shire and the Isle, being a very rich soyle and well inhabited, and not otherwise much troubled with waters, but in winter and times of flouds, brought many questions and differences into debate concerning banks and sewers that had relation to Meum and Tuum, and were insisted upon with more instance and sideing than any other part of the business, though more tending to the publick: all which upon view were ordered by the committees, howsoever with little satisfaction to some part or other, wherewith your lordships may chance hereafter to be troubled.

Only there remayneth two difficulties; the first, that whereas the said River of Ouze from Huntington to the High Bridge at Ely was generally fowle and overgrown with woods, stopt with weare, and against Ely (as in other parts) made shallow by gravell and fords (which they call hards) and in reason ought to be removed for the opening of the river and readier passage of the water in time of flouds; yet it was generally acknowledged that the removeing of these impediments, especially near about Ely, would take away all navigation and passage

by boats in summer time, to the great prejudice of the University and Towne of Cambridge; whereof the Vice Chancellour being present at the sessions at Huntington made earnest instance that due consideration might be had: so that unless there would be means found to make these stops to be no disadvantage or check in time of floods and winter when the country is in danger, as the same are a benefit in summer, and a help to navigation, it can hardly be accommodated without inconveniency.

The second difficulty was, that as the outfall of the River of Ouze was ample and great, and gave large passage to the fresh waters descending from the inland countries; so on the other side the Sea cometh in with such tide, especially if a northerly wind meet with a land flood, that divers townes in Marshland are in danger to be overflowed and surrounded; and therefore by their petition desired that the Haven might be straitened in some place near about Lynn, to keep out the Sea; alledgeing that the said Haven had in the memory of man been narrower and shallower than now it is, being of late grown to that breadth and depth by the great fall of the fresh waters, that have left their antient channels to follow that streame; and the mayor and townsmen of Lynn being made acquainted with their petition, seemed to stand indifferent. But in respect of the great consequence the committees forebore to give any opinion therein, but left it to such further consideration as is requisite.

From the River of Ouze the committees went to Wisbech to view the outfall of the River of Noane, and to informe themselves of the state of those parts.

The River of Neane cometh from Nottingham by <sup>Neane.</sup> Higham Ferryes to Peterburgh, and not far from thence divideth itself into divers branches, part running towards Croyland by the name of the Old Eae and Catswater, where it falleth into the River of Welande, and is now

so stopped up that it affordeth no passage by boat, and part by Horsey Bridge and Ramsey Meare, and so is divided again by Plantwater, which runneth toward Wisbech, and by the streame which falleth by Marsh into Wellwater, and from thence by Salter's Load into the Ouze, and so falleth into the Sea at Lynn; and part thereof is likewise conveyed by a cutt called the New Leame, beginning a mile below Peterburgh to Guyhirne, where it meeteth with Wisbech River.

The said river is divided likewise below Peterburgh near unto Horsey Bridge by a streame called Whittlesea Dyke, which is severed through the Fenne by divers branches, part falling toward Wisbech, and part by Salter's Load into the Ouze.

Wisbech  
River.

But the whole countrey doth acknowledge without question or contradiction, that the antient outfall of the River of Neane is Wisbech River; and upon the view of the committees the said river was found much defective in divers places, as well in breadth as depth; and especially below Wisbech near the outfall, it wanteth much depth, and is grown up and choaked with silt; and not only below Wisbech but above also, insomuch as it was informed that the bottom was six foot or more higher than it was before, which they proved; for that in former times the inland water at Guyhirne ran into the river at five foot fall, whereas on the contrary the said river falleth back into the inland water at Guyhirne.

And it appeared plainly upon view, that the bottom of the river for a mile or more below Guyhirne was far higher than the levell on the side, and consequently would not serve for a drayne thereto.

And this is the condition of that river, as now it appeared upon view.

For amendment whereof the commissioners have made a law of sewers for the cleansing and dikeing of the

same, agreeable in some sort to the instance of the Towne of Wisbech, to the end the inland draynes might fall into their antient and natural channel, as the readiest means for their conveyance to the Sea.

And forasmuch as the said towne and inhabitants adjoining did conceive that the erecting of a sluice at a place below Wisbech, called the Horshoe, would be very needfull for the preserving of the river from being choaked with silt, they desired that a law might be made for the erecting of such a sluice, now upon the dikeing and cleansing of that river: but the court of sewers were of opinion, that if the river were made and accommodated to a convenient outfall, the fresh water descending would still grind the channel to such a depth as should not need any such sluice.

Sluice at Horshoe.

And alledged withall, that there being a sluice heretofore erected at the great charge of the countrey upon that River of Wisbech, not far from the place where they now desire to have one made, it stood not seven days, but was broken and blown up by the tyde; nevertheless it was agreed that after the said river were diked to such a sufficient depth, there should be a sluice erected, if need required.

But notwithstanding this law of sewers for amendment of that river, it is like to sort to small effect, because they cannot agree where to lay the charge; the towne of Wisbech alledging that the benefit of cleanseing and dikeing of that outfall will altogether accrue to the behoofe of the upland countrey, and serve for their ease and safety, by disburthening them of the overcharge of their waters, and therefore that they ought to put their hand to the work and contribute thereunto in some reasonable measure.

And on the other side the upland countries do produce divers presentments, and some as high as H. 6, shewing that they ought not to be charged therewith; though

otherwise they do not deny that when the channel is scowred, if it prove serviceable, they will yeild a reasonable and indifferent aid; but those of Wisbech require contribution at the first, to be expended as the work shall proceed: and this is like to be the hindrance of the dyking and accommodating of that outfall.

From the defect of this outfall, as likewise that of the river of Welande, which is worse than this, it falleth out that the river of Neane, which from Peterburgh down to Standground and lower, where it is divided into branches, is now in summer 200 foot broad, and 16 or 20 foot deep, hath no way (besides those branches that find passage as aforesaid) for the discharge of so great a weight of waters but the levell below Peterburgh, which is a large tract of a countrey, a great part whereof, and especially that about Thorney Abbey of Croyland, was in former times (as the countrey informeth) firm and good ground, and is now a mere Lerna surrounded with water, and serving only for fish and fowle, without any further benefit to the publick. The rest of the Levell is near of the same condition, and go all under the name of the High Fenne.

Which stop and overcharge of water there doth not only cause the like overflowing in the upland countrey, to their infinite loss and disadvantage, upon occasions of flouds and swelling of waters, but the islanders themselves are in like danger as well for those parts whereof they make use as for their cattell and their own safety; out of fear whereof they oftentimes upon the swelling of the waters ring their bells backwards, as they do in other places when the towne is in danger of fire.

And thereupon it is that the upland men (as they informe) having long time expected an amendment of the outfall of Wisbech, and finding little hopes of a remedy that way, did agree upon a drayne in the 38th yeare of the late Queene, by way of a supply to Wisbech River,



called Clows Cross or Shire Drayne, and divideth the Clows Cross. Isle of Ely from Holland, and by Shiregate falleth into that river some 5 miles below that towne; which sewer lying 10 or 12 lower than the levell above, and where the drayne of Southeae runneth, most of the commissioners now in their view found to be the best drayne to regaine the surrounded grounds all above Southeae Bank, and to preserve the north side of Wisbech; and yet it needed only some raiseing and straitning of the banks, and bot-toming in some places; nevertheless the said commis-sioners provided that this drayne of Clows Cross do run but only at times when the water is all above the soyle, and as a supplement to the River of Wisbech; but at other times the water to follow Wisbech river, the rather because there is no probability that both can stand toge-ther: but if Wisbech River be not perfected and made sufficient for conveyance of the waters that antiently fol-lowed that channel, then the drayne of Clows Cross might be the benefit and ease of the upland countreys; and to this drayne the countrey standeth generally affect-ed, as well those that dwell in the upland parts, as those below in Marshland.

And whereas the River of Wisbech runneth from the Four Gotes below Wisbech down along to the Sea by the skirte of Marshland, the inhabitants there complain of much prejudice, and further danger which they fear by that channel, as now it is; but if the outfall should be opened and carry all such waters as ought to follow that streame, they were never able to endure it: for remedy whereof it is conceived and agreed upon by the said com-mittees, that if the said river together with the drayne of Clows Cross be carried from the Four Gotes by a new cutt to be made through the Salt Marshes to an out-fall called King's Creek, besides the benefit which will arise by the drayneing of their fenns, it will fence Marsh-land from danger, and no way prejudice Holland.

Welande.

The River of Welande running by Stamford Deeping and Spalding to the Sea, was likewise viewed by the commissioners, and found to be a very fair, open, and clean river down as far as Croyland, but from thence to Spalding, very defective for want of dykeing and cleansing; and from Spalding to the meeting of this water with the river of Glen, near unto the sea, almost silted up for want of dykeing, and a current of fresh water to scower the channel; insomuch as they were forced below Spalding at the time of this view, and in the sight of all the company to carry their boats by cart the space of 3 or 4 miles, to a place called Fosdyke (where great ships lay at anchor) for want of a current at a low water, to carry them down the channel: And the inhabitants of Spalding did complaine that they had no water in the river to serve the necessary use of the towne, but such as was unwholesome by reason of the shallowness thereof, which was less than half a foot deep two miles below the towne, where the committees now in the view did ride over.

And this is the state of those countries, as appeared upon this view; whereby their Lordships may perceive in what distress and extremity they are, for want of outfalls to the sea in the rivers of Neane and Welande; which two rivers, according to the information of the countrey, do find 12 draynes falling through the fenns, besides other dykes; all which did in former times fall into Wisbech Deep: but 6 of them are now turned from thence, viz. three on the north side above Wisbech, divideing the counties of Cambridge and Lincolne; and 3 on the south side below Wisbech, divideing the counties of Cambridge and Norfolk. The other 6 are still left to fall into Wisbech river, if it would receive them; but it carrieth not so much water as one of them can bring to it; for when the water cometh to Guyhirne, it forsaketh Wisbech river and turneth towards March, and all for want of a sufficient outfall.

Neither is it altogether new, or grown of late (though otherwise far more than ever, in regard the outfalls are more choaked than formerly) that these countries are surrounded and overcharged with waters, but that former times stood in need of help and assistance in this behalf; for in the time of H. 6, Gilbert Haltoft, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and dwelling about Well in the Isle of Ely, procured a commission for the drayneing and settling of that countrey, and accordingly proceeded in making laws, which are now often alleadged, by the name of Haltoft's commission.

Haltoft's  
Commission.

And afterwards in the time of H. 7, Bishop Morton, Lord Chancellor of England, made a fair drayne for the ease of the river of Neane, from Standground, a little below Peterborough, 14 miles in length, and carryed the same down to Guyhirne, where it meeteth with Wisbech river; near to which place he built a tower of brick (part whereof is yet standing) to the end he might see his workmen afar off in the Levell, and give such directions as was requisite; which drayne is known by the name of the New Loame.

New Loame.

And of later times my Lord Popham, much affecting the good of this countrey, amongst other his own industries, made a fair drayne called Popham Eae, beginning above Well, and falling into the Podyke; which is now stopped from running in regard of prejudice to some particular men.

Popham Load.

And some of London have likewise of late taken ground there, and either made or cleansed a fair drayne called London Load, near unto the said place.


London Load.

And if your Lordships please to take it into your honourable care, and direct some real and effectual course for the opening of these two outfalls, and the regaining of so many thousand acres that are now surrounded, which would prove a work of great honour to his Majesty, and good to the publick, though there be many gen-

lemen of good worth in those parts that want neither judgment nor zeale to do service therein ; yet it is conceived that it would be best effected by such as have no interest at all in the country, but standing indifferent betwixt each party, and having no other end but the common benefit, may proceed according to the rule of justice and reason, as well in drayneing the waters to their true and antient outfalls, which is the only meane to do the countrey good, as levying the charge without favour or partiality : wherein though they are like to find many gainsayers, according to a maxim they have among themselves, that he that will do any good in serving, must do it against the will of such as shall have profit by it ; yet the end will crown the work with honour and safety, and make large roome for people and habitation, with as much advantage to the state as any other part of the kingdom can afford : all which I humbly leave to your Lordships grave and approved wisdome.

CLEMENT EDMONDS.

September 20th, 1618.



## No. VII.

## MR. ATKYNS'S REPORTS.

1618.

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It hath been (my good Lord) a common received opinion, confirmed with many arguments both old and new, that most of all that which we call the Isle of Ely, and some other parts adjacent, were all sea; and that part only called the Isle, which being by nature somewhat higher than the rest, was, Robert de Swafham thinketh, so ordained by God, ut Habitacula fierent servorum Dei; being, as he then said, not above 7 miles broad and 7 miles long, and consisting of a few families; all the rest at the first being sea; and afterwards, by intercourse of time, one while sea, another while fenn and sea, and lastly fenn again: for albeit that by the industry of men there were certaine defensive banks in some parts made upon the falling away of the sea (which happened by the natural situations of the place, in that the tydes upon our coast of England all coming from the north flow southwards, and so the tydegate not passing through, but as it were by the Isle as in an edye, left ever something behind it, which heightened the soyle, and is the true reason why the parts nearest the sea then be at this day higher than the parts more remote); yet, nevertheless, by occasion of many and deep large lakes and pools, at this day called meers, occasioned first by the sea in regard of the lowness of the place, and now continued, by reason some of them for banks cannot, and others for depth will not drayne to the sea, the sea having forsaken them, the parts adjacent

Abbo Floriad.

are much surrounded, for that divers famous rivers fall into those parts; which, as an old author sayeth, *Ex Oriente propter equalitatem Terræ a Meditullio ferme totius Britanniæ, per centum et eo amplius millia, per hanc Insulam descendunt ad Mare cum maximis Fluminibus*: Whereupon Robert de Swafham, in his time, gathered the true cause of the fenns drowning, saying that *ex Inundatione vel Subfluitione Amnium stans aqua in equali terra profundam Paludem efficit, atque ita inhabitalem reddit*. This then was the state of the Isle for a long time, *Ad quam non nisi navivigio adiri potuit*, as Wm. Malmesbury saith; but as he there sayth, *Ætas solertior vicit naturam, aggeribusq' in paludem jactis, insulam pedibus accesibilem fecit*.

This being once obtained, succeeding ages, what with banks made in some parts, and by drains in other some, have brought the fenny parts of the Isle of Ely to the state they now be in, wherein your Lordship's worthy redecessors have right well deserved: and the sea now being almost wholly repelled, or having rather of itself (for the reason aforesaid) forsaken the Isle, it resteth to speak of such waters as now be the common causes of the inundations of those parts, which, notwithstanding all endeavours of former ages, for most part of the yeare are still overflown by the fresh waters from the high lands thither in great abundance descending.

May it therefore please your Lordship to understand, that besides many brooks, becks, and rilles, which in winter season afford much water to the fenns (whose courses were too tedious to relate, there be 3 principal rivers which necessarily pass through the fenns to their outfalls, by whose channels the waters of many countries do pass; these be the rivers Welande, Neane, and Ouze.

Welande.

And to begin with the first, your Lordship shall understand that the river of Welande, bordering upon the county of Northampton on the one side, and Leicester,



Rutland, and Lincolne on the other side, hath his original spring in Sybbertoft Fields, in the county of Northampton, not far from the head of Neane and Avon, and falleth to Harborough, and so by Collyweston to Stamford, and thence to Deeping, where it first toucheth the fenns, and thence to Croyland Triangle Bridge, and there it divideth itself into two branches; one by Southeae, passing by Clows Cross Head towards Wisbech, being a wrong course, and now, the other by Cubbitt to Spalding, and so by Fosdyke Stowe into Boston Deep. Upon this river on the east side lyeth Deeping Fenn, a ground of 20000 acres or more, of late taken in hand to be drayned (but with ill success) by one Captain Lovell, and since attempted to be perfected by my Lord of Exeter, I fear with no better event. This fenn antiently drayned into Welande, and by a famous Load in it, called Westload, fell into it Westload. a little above Spalding, which, by reason of the great abundance of fresh water which this Load afforded (as well by the overflowing of Welande as of Sork and Downfall) profitted much to the keeping open of the outfall of the river of Welande below Spalding; but my Lord of Exeter's late improvers, finding that by that course Deeping Fenn could not be drayned, conveyed the waters of Westload and Deeping Fenn by sluices and passages under the bottom of Welande and the banks thereof by new draynes into South Holland, and thence through the inland countrey to the seabanks, and from under them to the sea.

By this means the river of Welande, which before was but feeble and weak, is now become below Spalding no river at all; insomuch as in a great view of Commissioners of Sewers made in summer last, by order of the Lords of the Council, with the assistance of Sir Clement Edmunds, one of the clerks of the Council, purposely thither sent, it was found from Croyland to Spalding to be very defective, and from Spalding to the Sea almost

utterly silted up; so as where before vessels of great burden might have passed that way, it fell out that at the very time of the view, a poor man, whose boat was in the channel of the river below Spalding, came thither with a cart and horses to carry his boat by land 3 or 4 miles to the next water below to the seaward.

For remedy whereof, the Commissioners of Sewers have made a law to have this river diked this Summer following; but there is great doubt it will not be done, or if it be done, it will not be continued without putting of much more water thereto than willingly will go that way: for in regard of the neglect thereof in former times, especially within the last 60 or 70 yeares, the waters have of themselves diverted their courses, so as such draynes as antiently brought waters to this outfall do now carry much from it, and will not easily be regained.

But if the outfall of this river, by the industry of man can be recovered to his former estate (whereof there is great doubt and strong reasons to the contrary), it will be much profitable to the North parte of the Isle of Ely and parts adjoyneing, viz. to Thorney, Peterborough Fenns, Deeping Fenn, &c. otherwise with the said river divers of them will decay more and more, except some new way be devised.

This river of all the rest least concerneth the Isle of Ely, and as the state now standeth, taketh no water at all from thence, but rather putteth more thereto; whereas in former ages a great part of the river of Neane passed from Peterburgh through Thorney, and so by Croyland to Spalding, and so to the outfall there (much easing the Isle of Ely). Now Neane wholly lyeth upon the Isle in default of this outfall, as after shall be shewed.

Neane.

The second river is called Neane, consisting of two heads in Northamptonshire; the first near Catesby, under Anby Hills (from under which hills spring Charwell and Leame, as from the centre of England), as Abbo before

spoke of sayd, and so passeth to Northampton Towne, where it meeteth with the second head from Naseby Fields, where there be two springs 20 yards asunder, the one of which maketh the head of Avon, falling westward to Warwick, and so to Severne, the other this brook.

Which two heads so united pass to Wellingborough, and so by Higham Ferries and Thrapson to Oundle, and thence by Walmesford to Peterborough, bringing with it the waters of many brooks and rivers, of more than 20 heads. At Peterburgh it is a goodly fair river, 200 foot broad and 16 or 20 foot deep. This river after it hath passed Peterburgh a little, divideth itself again into many branches.

Whereof one, called the Old Eae, antiently took his course by Thorney to Croyland, and so meeting with Welande fell out below Spalding by Fosdyke, and thence to Boston Deep beforesaid. Old Eae.

This is the branch of which I just complayned, that for want of the outfall below Spalding now cometh in a most slow course by Thorney, thrusting in his head at every ditch, and his main body falleth to Noman's Land nigh Croyland, and there runneth back by Southeae along by Clows Cross Head, and so to Wisbech, with but little better success than at Spalding.

Another branch of Neane is a famous stream of 14 miles long and 40 foot broad for the most part, and was made by the good Bishop Morton, called the New Leame, beginning at the high land by Standground, in Huntingtenshire, and continueing unto Guyhirne, a hamlett in Wisbech parish; this river did the Bishop make for the more speedy conveyance of the waters from out of the Isle, which otherwise in defect of their passage by Spalding, much annoyed by the body of the Isle, as by taking their passage some by Whittlesea Dyke, and some by Horsey Bridge into Whittlesea Meare, and so to The New Leame.

Ramsey Meare, and so round about, some falling in towards Wisbech by Great Cross or Plantwater, and other some by March to Well, and so to Salter's Load into Ouze, and other some backward by Welney to Littleport, and so to Salter's Load, and there meeting with the water from Well pass to Lynn. The waters of this river be they which at this day most annoy the body of the fenns; for now that Wisbech outfall is by mere negligence overthrowne, it is apparent that that water which is within 4 miles of the outfall at Wisbech would never returne nor offend the countrey, now through the defect of Wisbech river turneth away and seeketh his course where it may, and much of it passeth about 50 miles before it can recover an outfall, drowning yearly by the way many thousand acres.

Gravells.

This New Leame being also much decayed as well in its own passage, by certain high gravells layd therein, and the landing up thereof thereby, as also by the decay of Wisbech outfall, in every land floud burtheneth both sides of the grounds adjoyneing, especially the grounds of Thorney, which having Southeae on the one side, and this passage of Neane on the other side (Wisbech river their proper outfall being wholly decayed) so surchargeth 14000 or 15000 acres thereof with their waters, as they become wholly unprofitable: for remedy whereof the owners of Thorney and other grounds near to the high lands having long expected an amendment of Wisbech outfall, and finding that they cannot much prevaile, have of late strongly endeavoured to make passage for those waters which so much annoy them by a new way called Clows Cross; which since we are fallen upon the name, it will not be amiss to speak somewhat thereof.

Clows Cross.

Upon the confines of Wisbech hundred in the Isle of Ely, and South Holland in the county of Lincolne, about 5 miles westward from Wisbech towne, there stood upon the bank of Southeae a cross, designeing the limitts of



Cambridgeshire and Lincolne in that part of the inland; and from that cross eastward there passed a watercourse through the inlands to the seabank, to a gate or clow called the Shire-gate, dividing still the shires. At the head of this watercourse there was also a clow, from which clow and the cross standing hard by it, the place took the name, *viz.* the Clows Cross. This clow (as most men deemed) served specially to take water out of Southeae into the inland grounds in dry years, as well for the preservation of the partition and fence on both sides, as for the relief and succour both of man and beast. Many have talked that they have heard that much of the waters of the fenns drayned that way, and of great and large water-gates and wide passages there. I myself was by when the old pipes were taken up about 22 years since, and observed that there were only two small pipes of plank layed together through the bank to take in water, not exceeding 18 inches square, as I could guess.

Upon the taking up of these pipes, there was the same yeare a sluice or clow made of timber in the same place, with two doors 13 or 14 foot high and 6 or 7 foot broad; and the sewer by the whole length, from the clow down to the seaward, from 12 or 14 foot wide, made 40 foot wide and 5 foot deep. Notwithstanding all which preparac'ons, the bank of the way by which this water should pass, could not be made so sufficient by the space almost of 2 miles, but that if but one of the doors of the clow were pulled up but two foot, the water would overtop the bank, and as well thereby as by much sock through the hollow and spongy banks thereof newly made, annoy the grounds on both sides; upon which doings complaints and oppositions were made, and much business hath been moved, which stayed the proceeding thereof.

But the new undertakers being better acquainted with

the work, have undertaken to perfect the same with better satisfaction to the countrey in all respects; and for that purpose at this day there is a new stone sluice in laying at the head thereof, which will cost 200*l.* or more, to be finished by the 10th of May next, and as well the banks on both sides heightened, as the channel thereof enlarged.

It cannot be denied but this course will much help the state of the fenns lyeing within 7 or 8 miles thereof, especially all betweene Southeae and the New Leame; in regard whereof they be all taxed to the contribution.

This river of Clows Cross lyeth in a place of smallest distance from the fenn to the sea, viz. but 5 miles, and is very straight; by which two reasons, as also by the benefit of a good outfall, which it hath to the sea, it will in my opinion prove very beneficial to the countrey, and also ease very much some defensive banks which be now very chargeable to keep, and yet through their fearful ruptures indanger both man and beast, besides other inestimable losses which may thereby ensue.

Objections  
against Clows  
Cross.

There rest only two things of importance to be objected against Clows Cross; the one is the decay of Wisbech River by taking from it the water which helpeth the maintenance thereof, for yet it is thought both these will hardly stand together; the other is the makeing of a dam in the river between Clows Cross and Guyhirne, to keep the water of Wisbech River from falling back unto Clows Cross River; by which dam the navigation from Spalding Deeping and Crowland will be much hindred, being places of greatest commerce with Wisbech.

For the first, it seemeth, Wisbech men know well enough there may be sufficient water brought to maintaine their river from other places if they would be at the charge, but there it sticketh; and there hath been of late some speech of a course, to have the river in Wisbech Downe a standing water, and no passage to the sea,



thereby to save the charge of dykeing; which I fear in few years will prove so indeed, except more care be had thereon.

Touching the second objection, true it is that the people of Spalding and the rest may still come to Wisbech by water notwithstanding this dam; but by a much further way about, and a great deal more toylsome and dangerous, and perhaps in summer time for want of water, and for the gravells aforesaid not at all, except the New Leame be also dyked, which I hold to be hardly feazable.

I have been long in this, but the matter requireth it, being of great consequence; and something more might be said therein, as namely of the outfall of the Sea, either in place where now it is upon the confines of Lincolnshire and the Isle, or by cutting over a new river from Shiregote to a place in Sutton called the King's Creek (a track of five miles long over the marshes); but it were too tedious, and the business is out of the Isle, and therefore I omitt it.

And now I am come to Wisbech River, your Lordship shall understand that antiently this was an arm of the Sea, and the time was when the whole course of the Ouze, as well from the Westwater by Great Cross, as all such waters as now fall on the east of the Isle with Ouze from Littleport Chaire to Lynn, had their passage by Welney and Well to the North Seas at Wisbech, and from thence where now the washes be; in regard whereof writers say K. John's people perished in the waters of Well: and Thorney Red Book, speaking of Wisbech Castle, sayth that Super Flumen illud famosum quod Wellstreame appellatur situm est predictam Castrum, quod a pluribus Paludibus et Rivulis et Fontibus Principium habet, et per longos Meatus in Mare magnum juxta Wisbech derivare liquido comprobatur. This arm had Holland and a part of the Isle on the one side, and Marshland in Norfolk.

Wisbech River.

on the other side, which were defended from it by great sea banks, which of late time, viz. in the time of H. 6, were ordayned to be made and maintained 50 foot high. Thitherto old resorted ships and vessels of great burden ; but the Sea still forsaking the Isle for the reasons before sett downe, hath made the whole passage betweene Wisbech and the Washes high marshes and lands, and by the decay of the river the channel or outfall so shallow and weak, as poor people often go over it on foot barelegged, under the knee.

This pityfull outfall proceedeth by the neglect of the people about Wisbech, in not scowering and dykeing the river, as by antient laws and presentments they ought to have done ; nor by preserving and maintaining the petty sewers and draynes which antiently fed the same, by enforcing the waters thereof and keeping them in their proper course, whereby the Sea finding little resistance nor strength of a following head of water to scower the channell, continually silted up the said river and outfall, and by consequence not only drowned the fens, but debarred the means of drayneing 13 or 14 thousand acres of inland grounds, the support of three or four townes on the north of Wisbech, whereof I shall speak anon.

Haltoft's Commission.

For the maintenance of this river and outfall there have been divers good laws made, namely, one by commission exemplified Anno 16<sup>o</sup> H. 6. commonly called Haltoft's Commission ; where the Commissioners finding in those days the river to silt up (for the reason of the tyde gate before spoken of) ordained the same river from Guyhirne (4 miles above Wisbech) to be diked and widened toties quoties noce fuerit. But your Lordships worthy predecessor Morton, finding in his wisdom that besides that it was a very chargeable course to his people of the hundred of Wisbech once in 4 or 5 years to dike this river, and that notwithstanding this dikeing of the

river, the outfall below to the seaward nevertheless decayed; and that without a great head of fresh waters to scower both the river and the outfall, all would be lost, took a part of Hercules' labour upon him, and by his example strove to bring in great abundance of fresh waters by divers courses out of the fens, to maintain this channell, namely, the river of Neane and Welande by Southease, the river of Great Cross or Plantwater from the united branches of Neane and Ouze, descending by Beuwick, but principally by makeing this worthy work of the New Leame of 14 miles long between the two former rivers, partly to convey Neane from Standground more speedily to his outfall, by keeping it from overflowing the body of the fens through the Meares, but especially to maintaine Wisbech River and outfall; and such delight took he therein, as at Guyhirne, where all these waters met, he built a tower of brick, whereof part standeth to this day, and the place called the Tower-House; and up into that tower would he often go to oversee and set out these works.

These watercourses thus being all united at Guyhirne, he provided that between their first entrance towards the sea and Wisbech towne there should be a large and spacious place of receipt (imbanked on both sides) for these waters to gather an head upon, while the tide was flowing through Wisbech towne, to stop the tide and scower the channell; this place was called The Mouth, which name it still retaineth to this day: and so confident was he of the good success thereof, as he adventured in two places within less than a quarter of a mile from below Wisbech, to cutt through the sea bank, and make open passage for these waters by a straiter course to the sea, cutting down these banks and defences of the countrey, which within 50 years before by law had been ordained under great payne to be made 50 foot high.

Then were Wisbech Fens by this doing made good

sheep pastures; then was the fall of the waters in Wisbech so great, as no man would adventure under the bridge with a boat but by veering through, &c.

But succedeing ages neglecting these good provisions, have thereby lost this benefit, and the town at this day nothing willing have for some yeares past striven to avoid the charge; one while saying they cared not if it were a dry towne, another while by thinking to keep it as a standing pool, another while enforceing the makeing of a sluice between the towne and the sea, that the tide should not silt up the river, saying that otherwise the charge of dikeing the river would be but cast away, and to the charge of this sluice they would call in the high countrey people, such as they know will not easily be brought to it, that so nothing might be done. These oppositions have hindred the whole course of proceeding in these parts, and what the success will be I know not; but I referr you to the Report of Sir Clement Edmonds, made to the lords of the councill, what his opinion is herein. But for my own opinion, I dare boldly say, that were there in the Isle of Ely again another Bishop Moreton, the countrey might well be regained by such means as might be easily sett downe.

That Clows Cross River will do much good to the fenns it hath been said before; and that it will help the outfall of Wisbech to a channel all men agree; nay, without it, most men think, the outfall in a very short time will be utterly lost, do Wisbech what they can; and at this day there be some projects on foot, only by Clows Cross outfall to recover Wisbech and the inlands now so much distressed.

The new tract  
by the Four  
Gotes.

There was below Wisbech, in winter last, a new tract cut, almost two miles long, beginning at the Four Gotes and so down to the seaward, as an essay to prove that the river of Wisbech (which being from Wisbech to the Four Gotes of reasonable depth, but presently below

very shallow) would take the course through this new tract, and thereby, as by a nearer passage, scower the outfall, and withall yield some help to the drowned inlands. But by reason this tract was over narrow and could not thereby be made so deep as the water of the river could pass into it, the charge was adjudged lost. Notwithstanding, by an order made at Wisbech the 16th day of March last, it was ordayned that the first undertakers should enlarge the said tract to 40 foot wide and of depth sufficient, and then by a strong dam made in the old channel of Wisbech River, to enforce the water to take into the new tract, which they yielded to do; and for this doing there was 120*l.* appoynted, *viz.* Wisbech countrey to pay 40*l.*, the high countries 40*l.*, and the countrey of Marshland 40*l.*, upon a suggestion that by carrying off the waters of Wisbech River by this new tract further off from Marshland, the charge of their bank would be the less, and the countrey better secured. But I fear me this will not be done, and if it be, it will hardly continue.

There is another principal river called Great Cross or Plantwater, which would help yet much to the bettering of Wisbech River, and the charge of dikeing and scowering the same well known to whom it belongeth. This Plantwater is a branch, or rather the body of Neane and Ouze united, whereof so much of Ouze as falleth in at Erith Bridge by the channell called the Westwater, passeth on the west of the Isle by Somersham Bank to Chatteris Ferry, and so to Beuwick, antiently bringing with it great store of water, where meeting with Neane from Ramsey out of the Meares, so pass by Doddington, till they come above Marsh more than a mile; and there, at a place called Great Cross, the greatest part of the water in old time fell in, and took a course to Guyhirne, and so to Wisbech. This river of itself were sufficient to maintaine Wisbech River (notwithstanding

Great Cross, or  
Plantwater.

Clows Cross River running), if it were rightly pursued; but at this day it is much neglected, and the Westwater more than this; whereby the countrey adjoyning being much hindred, besides a greater mischeif, which is, the thrusting of the whole body of Ouze downe towards Ely a far further course, whereof I shall speak when I come to Ouze. So as to conclude, notwithstanding Clows Cross should run, there be five or six streams to help Wisbech River with water, viz. the New Leame, Upstaven Eae (a fair watercourse), Great Cross or Plantwater, Aldersea Dyke, and Elme River and the Leame; and not one of these good at this day. The defect growing still by reason of the charge, and principally of Wisbech Rivers not dikeing. In whose default, not only the New Leame, but all the forenamed waters turne away from Wisbech, and falling by Marsh to Well, empty themselves at Salter's Load into the Ouze, and so to the Sea by Lynn; thereby much endangering the banks of the country of Marshland on the east side thereof.

Sluice at  
Horshoe.

Touching the sluice to be sett in Wisbech River, at a place a little below the towne called the Horshoe, there have been many consultations and much debate: first, for the necessity thereof, then for the feazableness, then for the place, but principally for the charge, and divers letters procured from the lords of the council about it. But Wisbech men at last agreeing to have it done, call into charge the high countries, by way of contribution, by reason it is a new work, and they alone not to be charged therewith, &c. The high countries, although they seemed at first forward to have it done, yet now seeing the event and themselves like to be charged, began to make some doubt whether it were necessary to have a sluice or no there, till the river be diked, but would defer the makeing of it till the success of the dikeing were seen, and then, if need require, they would



contribute, &c. But the countrey of Wisbech avouching that their labour will be lost in dykeing without a sluice, insist upon it to have both the sluice and the dykeing to go in hand together.

What the event will be is yet uncertaine; I think verily if some may have their minds, neither will be done, and so the charges shall be saved of all hands; and were it not more to drayne the inlands than the fenns, little force would be made of Wisbech River: but by reason of the decay of Wisbech Outfall the 13000 or 14000 acres of inland grounds, whereof I spake before, being the support of the greatest part of the Hundred of Wisbech, lye most pitifully drowned: who having of old time while the outfall was good, founded upon that outfall divers great sluices, now called the Four Gotes, and with great charge in banks and sewers brought their waters thither, the outfall now is so silted up as they can by no means draine thereby; and being forced hereupon to seek desperate remedies, have at this time cast a great dam in Wisbech River hard by the towne side, diverting the body of the river by an indirect course to run back into the Isle againe, while in the mean time the waters of the inlands at the Four Gotes run and feebly supply the channel of the river 4 miles below the towne: some colourably pretending the dam there is sett to be because they mean to dyke a part of the river below, between the Dam, and the Horshoe.

Of this dam the Sea will make advantage (if it stand a while) by silting up the channel from this dam to the Four Gotes, which is 4 miles; which would be seen.

There is yet another branch which helpeth well to the outfall of Wisbech River, called Elme River and the Leame, which taketh his head from a very fair river a mile and more below Marsh Bridge, and so cometh through the fenns towards Coldham, and thence by Elme

There was within twenty days last a remedy projected to the country for all these defects for 9d. the acre, once paid; but by the perfidiousness of some of Wisbech (as it is suspected), it is now either overthrown or unhappily delayed.

Elme River, and the Leame.



to Wisbech. By this stream backward now runneth Wisbech Water into the Isle. By a late order made at Wisbech the 16th of March last, this watercourse for the bettering of Wisbech Outfall was ordayned to be diked and cleansed before the end of May, as I remember; but now through the abundance of waters turned into it from Wisbech, it is not like to be done 'till afterwards, if at all.

Ouze.

It resteth now to speak something of the river of **Ouze**; This river is the most famous in this description, and hath his original head under Sisam, in North'onshire, 54 miles from Erith Bridge, at which place it first toucheth the Isle of Ely; it falleth by Brackley, Bcukingham, Newport Pagnell, Bedford, Huntington, and St. Ives to Erith, and bringeth waters with it out of many countries; it consisteth of 5 fair rivers, besides brooks and rills of many heads.'

This river of **Ouze** then being come to Erith, there divideth itself into two branches; whereof the first falling in at Erith Bridge, is called the Westwater, of which I erewhile spake; which passing by Somersham to Chatteris, and so to Beuwick, upon the confines of Huntingt-onshire and the Isle, there meeteth with a part of Neane, descending under Horsey Bridge through the Meares to Beuwick: these two in one united course, taking in Whittlesea Dyke by the way, came (as before is said) to Great Cross; at which place the greatest part took towards Wisbech, and the rest under March Bridge to Well, and thence to Salter's Load, and so to Lynn.

This branch of **Ouze** is utterly decayed from Erith to Beuwick; and albeit there have been divers consulta- . tions, and the business much insisted upon by great persons whom it much concerned to have it opened (as it was conceived) inferring the necessity thereof for the ease of **Ouze** falling towards Ely, besides some opposition made by the Governor, whose estate in the fenns it touched

much: in conclusion, the charge of the dikeing and cleansing merely stayed it, though the countrey (as some sayd) would have done gratis a great charge therein, which belonged to the king to do.

From the upper part of this river, a mile or more below Sutton Load. Erith Bridge, there fell forth a branch called Sutton Load, passing eastward by Sutton in the Isle, and thence by the edge of the Highlands and the fenns to Downham Park, and so by Camoll Load to Littleport, and so into the Ouse at Littleport Chaire.

When the cleanseing of the Westwater could not be obtained, this branch by a late law was ordayned to be opened for the consideration aforesaid; but for that it could not be well brought to any convenient outfall, but was likely to do much hurt by the way in a long tract, and would besides more weaken the passage of the Westwater by takeing away the head of the water, which would help to maintaine the whole passage, and utterly overthrow all navigation that way, it was by letters procured from the Lords of the Council stayed, and so nothing done therein.

In my opinion, this branch (as many other more in the Isle) served rather for the people of the parts adjacent by boat to fetch and carry their fenny commodities and other necessary provisions for their maintenance, and not merely for a sewer, the course being no way answerable for it; and as by divers other cross dykes in these parts, as Capload, Ouzedike, Shakepoke Load, &c. may well be seene; who, though in some place or other they pass into a greater stream, yet can they not be sayd properly to be draynes or sewers to drayne the fenns.

The second branch of Ouze, or rather (as the case now standeth) the whole body passeth now from Erith Bridge towards Awdrey Causey, upon the confines of the Isle of Ely and Cambridgeshire, and is for the most part thereof on either side defended with banks: upon the north side

there lye certaine meadows in natures called the Delfes, belonging to the Lordship of Haddenham, which yet sometimes upon some outrage of landfloods, by breaking of the banks, be overflown: on the south side of the Ouze lye divers rich grounds, the most whereof from Overcote to Awdrey Causey be imbanked of late, especially those of Wyvelingham. Against these banks there have been many greivous complaints made by the countrey for 5 or 6 miles above, inferring that where the waters formerly in times of inundations and landfloods had their passage over the whole face of the soyle for 4 or 5 miles space, by means whereof the flood speedily passed away with little hurt doing; now by reason of these banks, the waters being restrayned to the body of the river, and some small space of foreland within which it is limited, not only causeth the flood to rise far higher upon the high lands than it was wont, doing thereby exceeding much harm, but also stayeth a far longer time ere it can get away (a mischief as ill as the other). Another matter there was, that in winter time, upon some great down-fall, there coming some water from off the high lands, and some by means of springs and other ousie places falling down by Over and Wyvelingham, had passage to Wyvelingham Meare, and by divers other tracts fell to Awdrey Causey, and so passed away; now by reason of the new erected banks, especially a bank called Bathing Bank, these waters are wholly debarred their passage, &c.

To appease this clamour the Commissioners made a view about Whitsontide last of these places, and as it was thought, found that there was not so much cause of clamour as the countrey made far off: notwithstanding the countrey stood much upon it, and offered to prove that besides the passage of the waters which they used to have over the face of the soyle in time of floods, there were certain drayns and sewers within the inclosed grounds,

whereof some passed through the midst of the grounds imbanked, this could not then be well proved: nevertheless the owners of the grounds imbanked, to give the countrey satisfaction, voluntarily offered to make the countrey a drayne within the imbanked grounds, by the one side thereof, to pass the waters, when need was.

But the countrey still exclaimeing against this Bathing Bank especially, the Commissioners in general, by a selected company of committees, the second time viewed the whole tract; and where in some places of the way they could find any low or hollow place which might seem in times past to have been a sewer or watercourse, divers of the committees for their better information did follow every such tract, to see if they could find the fall thereof into any maine streame or watercourse serving for the drayning of the fenns or low parts there; but generally they found that all those tracts ended either in some pool or pitt, or upon the plain ground: yet to satisfy the countrey, they made an order that the lords and tenants of Wyvelingham should speedily perfect the new drayne through the bounds of the said mannor, according to their late voluntary offer, and the Commissioners decree, making the same 4 foot deep at the least. How this will stand I know not, but verily there were that observed some defects on both parts; one over violently enforceing, the other too vehemently insisting, *parcius ista tamen*, the quarrel, I doubt, is not yet ended, nor will be, I fear, till some passions be better qualified: once pity it is, the countrey in general should be so much hurt as they complaine they are for any private respect; and again as much pity it is to see grounds of that nature, and so well quality'd, to be through faction overthrown.

On the other side of the river nigh Wyvelyngham Cote, there is a shew of a bank of Ouze called Margozes, falling into the meadows and field skirts of Haddenham

*Maregoze.*

to the high land ward, and so continuing a course of 4 miles, for the most part passing between the low grounds and the fields, fell again into the Ouze about a place called Wilburton Lazar.

Some urged the opening of this, as a slaker to ease Ouze; but sure much harm would thereof follow: it is conceived (and that is also my opinion) it was rather ordayned to take in fresh water out of the river in dry seasons out of the grounds by which it passed, which could not otherwise be had: yet upon the general view, it was found to be an antient drayne, but not appoynted to be opened.

From Awdrey Causey Ouze passeth down with a fair course towards Stretham, where again by reason of some new works intended, complaints grew on the tenants parts, and the works were stood upon on the lord's part, either of them having their private ends; but it went on the lord's side.

Thence passeth the river to Harrimore, and a little above the chapel it meeteth with the river Grant, from Cambridge, who there loseing his name, passeth with Ouze to Ely.

In this tract there have been divers new works projected, as namely for opening the passage from the inlett of Cowload Fenn into Sellowes, and the cutting over of a river from Harrimoreward towards Stuntney through a small peice of Ely Common, suggested for the readier passage of the water in regard of the straitness of the tract; this seemed to some to savour of a private end, joyned with a little stomach of revenge.

The ground where through it should have been cut is but narrow, and hath on the east side Stuntney River, on the west side the main body of Ouze and Grant united; and if another river should have been cutt between these two, as was proposed, in some places one of these rivers

would have been within a furlong or little more of the other ; a great spoyle to the ground, cumbersome for use and dangerous for cattel.

From Ely the Ouze passeth towards Littleport in a most crooked course, makeing a tract of 10 miles long by water, whereas by land it is accounted but 3.

For remedy of this, about 8 years since there was a The New Cutt. course projected to cutt a strait river, beginning a little above a place in the river called Ely Hards, and so passing lineright over the soyle to fall in again a little from Littleport Chaire, having made a course of more than two miles. This river was begun, and above 1000*l.* bestowed in it, and was of special use for two ends ; one for the readier passage of the water, the other for the speedier passage in regard of navigation ; which by the old tract of the river was long and laborious. But it being a new work, and not very well approved of by some of the better sort about Ely, and prosecuted besides with some rigour upon the poor commons of the countrey, there was means made to stay the proceeding thereof ; more, as was thought, of mislike of the persons that pursued it, than of the work itself.

And whereas near unto this new cutt (as they call it) there was an old sewer leading the same way that the new did (but nothing of so good use), called the Delfe or Padnal Lake, which was to be kept and maintayned by the townes of Ely and Littleport, whereof the said townes should have been discharged if the new cutt had gone forward. The Commissioners have of late (since the surceaseing of the said new cutt) often moved to have it proceeded in ; but, as in all other works of that kind, it sticketh upon the charge. Yet in summer last it was ordayned, that either the new sewer there from Padnall Lake's end downward to the river, or else the said old drayne should be dyked, haffed and cleansed, to the full breadth of 20 foot and depth of 4 foot, at the choice of



them of Ely and Littleport. But in disdain of the new, with one voice they all agreed to do the old drayne, though it be no whit so beneficial in my judgement as the new, and the new finished perhaps with as small charge to them as the old.

**The Hards.**

In this tract of the Ouze there have been great debates ; some, and the most part, strongly enforcing the opening of the river in all strait places, and the removing of such sandbeds, gravells and wares, with other impediments as are great letts to the drayneing of the grounds (which cannot be denied) ; others again defending the same, saying that those stops in the river for the holding up the water must necessarily be maintained for preservation of navigation, especially to the university and towne of Cambridge. And among those to Huntington, the 12th of August last, at the Generall Session of Sewers there holden, came D. Richardson, then Vice-Chancellor of the University, and in a speech made in the open court, desired that there might be due consideration of this matter at all times had. Some others likewise have seemed to affirme, that these stops were purposely layd for that consideration of holding up the water for navigation sake ; and how these two differences, one of drayneing the countrey, the other of navigation, might stand together, it was thought a hard matter to determine. But if we look into the benefit which the commonwealth receiveth by these, I think it will be easily confessed that the drayneing of so many thousand acres, especially such as lye so nigh to the uplands of Suffolk, Cambridge and Huntington, where want of hay and fodder is, far exceedeth the other of navigation. The greatest defect whereof in the river beginneth not till it come almost to Ely towne, where there is a place very shallow, called The Hards, being about a furlong in length, and half a furlong broad, or more ; the river both above and below being of a sufficient depth : this I take to be



the natural soyle consisting of gravell and other matter that will not so easily be worne away by the water's slow passing over them, as other places of more tender matter and where the current runneth swifter: but by the help of the spade this may be easily made of sufficient depth with the rest; and as they now be, in my opinion, it is an error to think that Ely Hards do hold up any water for the bettering of navigation; my reason is, for considering always there is water sufficient for lighters and flat bot-tomed boats to pass laden, and that the body of the water of these Hards is more than double the ordinary breadth of the rest of the same river there about it, it cannot be but it uttereth as much water in the common and ordinary course as the rest of the river there about doth; so as it may in a word be sayd they stop no water, for what they want in depth they have in breadth.

The next lett is in Ely towne, where the channel is of gravel as before, and may by the like means be helped, the tract being very short: but if this be misliked in regard of the charge, or admitting it be true that it hold-eth up water, there is then another course in a softer soyle hard by on the back of certain holts there called Babylon, which will afford passage at all times with a small help, if the head thereof be opened a little below Ely Bridge.

The third stop is in the very mouth of Grant, being only a bed of gravell and sand, which the river of Ouze at his meeting with Grant strongly casteth up, and the river of Grant being the weaker streame feebly resisteth; a matter not worth the speaking of: and from this place till men come past Clayhive towards Cambridge, no lett for depth of the river in the channel at all; but between Clayhive and Cambridge there be certain sand beds and shallows in the river, which if they be removed the pas-sage would be the worse, by means the water which is limited by the going or not going of the mill would when

the mill stands fall so fast away as there would not be left any store sufficient for navigation; so as the defect is in the want of water from Cambridge; which though these gravells hold up what they can, except the mills go, none but small boats can pass: and sith the water of Cambridge River cannot any way be increased by adding of more, men must fashion their vessels to the water, and not the water to every vessel.

Stretham  
Gravells.

The other stops which be in Ouze from Harrimore upwards towards St. Ives, especially those about Stretham (which of all other are the worst) be gravells made over the river of sett purpose by cart to fetch their fodder and hay out of the fenns: these gravells being 3 or 4 in number, do great harme to the drayneing, and cannot be said to be any thing beneficial to the navigation, as was before said of Ely Hards, considering that here the Ouze continually affordeth such store of water as there never wanteth sufficient: so as in conclusion, the defect for navigation in Grant is from the head, which cannot be augmented; but the whole way of Ouze from St. Ives to Littleport may be made deeper, and never want water, when the way of Grant, nigh Cambridge, will want, do men what they can.

Navigable  
sluices.

Many have talked of navigable sluices, and divers were appoynted to be made, in my Lord Popham's project of general drayning, which proceeded not: and in a consultation of the L. L. Committees, had in Michaelmas terme last, about the preservation of navigation, their Lordships being informed that these stops in the river of Ouze were special means to preserve navigation, in their judgements rather yielded that the countrey should make navigable sluices than so much good ground for preserving navigation should be lost: which sluices, sith they be like to be of great charge, and the countrey but poor to undergo it, I think it will stay in the execution: and for my own judgment, I am verily of opinion that the re-

moveing of the 2 Hards only about Ely can never hinder navigation, in respect of the great following heads of water in Ouze, which never will faile, and may be much holpen by flowing up of the tyde from Lynn, especially if the new cutt before spoken between Ely and Littleport were well opened.

From below these Hards to Lynn, where Ouze hath his outfall, there never wanteth sufficient water for navigation, but there is very often too much, proceeding from two causes; one is, the River of Ouze itself bringing with it waters out of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Northamptonshire, cannot but afford great plenty of itself; another reason is that in respect of the decay of the 2 outfalls of Welande and Neane, most of their waters follow this stream, and forsakeing their own channels by many miles labour to fall into Ouze; so as when the face of the Isle is covered wholly with waters, which often happeneth, they have almost no way to pass but by Ouze; thereby so overchargeing his channel, that not only the grounds adjoyning for many miles together be made rather seas than lands, but the defensive banks of Marshland, by which they pass, be thereby so rent and torne, and the bottoms thereof so undermined and shaken, as the people of those parts thereof most greivously complaine, and by their petitions to the L. L. prayed that if the high countrey waters, which in default of their proper outfalls unduly thither comeing, oppressed them, could not be restrained from them, that then the high countries should contribute with them towards the great charge of their banks sustaineing, which the L. L. thought but just.

Another reason, partly growing from the former, is this; the abundance of fresh waters makeing their passage by this course give the Sea a more spacious inlett; the one as it were preparing the way, and the other

maintaining it with much increase. Hence it cometh that wherein former ages (as by good records appeare) the channel of Lynn Haven was not above 7 or 8 poles broad, now (notwithstanding some peers or jetties within the space of 30 years last made for the restraint thereof) yet is it at this day above 40 poles wide in the narrowest part thereof. Of which great excess it proceedeth that the people of those parts greivously complayneing, by a petition exhibited to the Lords of the Council in Michaelmas Term last, desired that the said Haven might be straitned, and those other waters' unduly thither descending, turned to the proper and antient outfalls, without which doing the countrey of Marshland would not long stand. Whereupon it pleased their Lordships to grant them a commission for that purpose, which is hoped to proceed with good success, if the greatness of the charge hinder not the work.

**Popham Load.** There is about Well a river newly made, called Popham Load, of 7 miles long and very strait; ordained at first for the ease of some parts of the Isle as an help to Well River. But the Lord Popham dyeing, and his whole project rejected, it was stopt up in regard of the insufficiency of the banks: but within 2 or 3 yeares after it was again pursued to be perfected, pretending the benefit of the whole countrey thereby, but intending a private end.

This river being hotly pursued, at the first makeing went on without makeing any satisfaction for the several grounds which were cutt to make it, or the common by which it passed; every man willing of late to take benefit thereby, but no man satisfying the law whereby it was made, nor recompenseing the losses thereby sustained.

Hereupon Synolphus Bell, Esq. having much ground adjoyneing thereby drowned, obtained by view of Commissioners a law to keep the upper doors thereof shut, till the countrey would so fortify the banks as his grounds

should not thereby be hurt. Herehence have grown many debates with no little parts takeing, the countrey complayning of the great charge they bestowed in the perfecting thereof (whereof now they can take no benefit). And Mr. Bell and his friends strongly standing upon the law and the justness of his cause, that no reason it is that he should not only have so much of his grounds cutt away and wasted for nothing, but the whole thereof otherwise continually surrounded for default of defensive banks to defend the same, to be made and maintained at the country's charge, as by law was ordained.

It is a worthy river and well placed, and hath from Well Towne's End to Salter's Load (which is little above 4 miles) more fall than there is thought to be between Peterburgh and Well, which is 40 miles and more, as the water cometh.

This Load serveth exceedingly well for all Huntingtashire side and the West of the Isle, namely and especially Chatteris and Doddington; and pity it is that they of Well be not defended, and the higher part of the countrey of their waters thereby eased.

## No. XII.

1630.

## LYNN LAW.

CAROLUS, Dei Gratia, Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ  
et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei Defensor, &c. Omnibus  
ad quos præsentēs literæ pervenerint, Salutem.

INSPEXIMUS, Ordinationes quasdam sive decreta de  
Le Sewers indentat' per quosdam Commissionarios nos-  
tros, virtute Commissionis nostræ nuper ordinat', inactat',  
stabilit' et decret' manu nostra propria signat', in Can-  
cellar' nostra retornat' et in filaciis ibidem de Record'  
residen', in hæc verba.

CAROLUS REX a ceo assenta.

AT a Sessions of Sewers at King's Lynn in the  
county of Norfolk, the thirteenth day of January, in the  
sixth year of the reign of our Gracious Sovereign Lord  
King Charles, over England, &c. Touching the draining  
of the fens and low grounds within the counties of  
Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge,  
Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, within the limits of  
this commission, holden in the presence of the Right  
Honourable Francis Earl of Bedford; and before Sir  
Robert Heath, Knight, his Majesty's Attorney General;  
Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet; Sir John Carle-  
ton, Baronet; Sir Robert Bevill, Knight of the Bath;  
Sir John Cutts, Sir John Peyton, Sir John Bell, Sir John

Hare, Sir John Poley, Sir Thomas Dereham, Knights; Doctor Henry Butts, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge; Henry Smith, Doctor of Divinity; Henry Cromwell, junior; Sinolphus Bell; John Percivall, Mayor of the town of King's Lynn; Francis Parlett, Everard Buckworth, Thomas Edwards, Edmund Skipwith, Humberstone March, Thomas Dawes, Andrew Burrell, John Oldfield, Thomas Dereham, William Leak, Gregory Gawsell, Robert Gawsell, Thomas Drury, Thomas Fincham, Thomas Cross, William Hobson, William Hayward, George Glapthorne, Esquires; and others to the number of forty and one, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by authority of his Highnesses Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, as followeth:

Whereas, that great and worthy work of draining of the fens, marshes, and surrounding grounds, lying and being within the precincts and limits of the Commission of Sewers, for the counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, was first propounded in the time of the reign of King James of blessed memory, and in the nineteenth year of his late Majesty's reign, and at the town of Cambridge, at a general assembly of the Commissioners of Sewers there, for those counties, his then Majesty having declared by his royal letters, that he himself would undertake the said work at his own charge; for the satisfaction of his Majesty's great expences in that behalf, the quantity of one hundred and twenty thousand acres of the said marsh, fenny wastes, and surrounded grounds, was, by an act of sewers then made, decreed to be assigned unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be allotted out, held and enjoyed, in such manner as by the said act of sewers is particularly and at large expressed; but his late Majesty or his now Majesty, by reason of their other great and more important

A short recital  
of a Law of  
Sewers made  
the 19th Jac.



occasions, nor any other on their behalf, have hitherto undertaken the said work in hand, whereby the said act, and all the intentions thereof, became hitherto fruitless and void.

The draining recommended by the King to the Commissioners.

And whereas his now Majesty, taking into his princely consideration the miserable estate of that whole country, which of late hath been more surrounded with waters, than ever in former times, to the hazard of those parts thereof, which formerly yielded some profit, and to the extreme danger of the persons and estates of the inhabitants of the places near adjoining, and of rendering the work almost impossible to be done, if in time the same be not undertaken and prosecuted effectually, hath several times recommended the same to the special care of the Commissioners of Sewers.

A tax laid by the said Commissioners, but never paid.

And whereas, in pursuance of so gracious an intimation unto them, for their own private and for the publick good, the Commissioners of Sewers, at a Sessions of Sewers, holden at Huntingdon, the twentieth day of January, in the fifth year of his now Majesty's reign, for preparation of the said work, did lay a tax of six shillings the acre upon all and every the said fenny, marsh, waste and surrounded grounds; to be paid within a certain time then appointed, and now long sithence past, in the said last mentioned act expressed, which tax or sum of six shillings the acre, nor any part thereof, was paid according to the said act.

A recital of a contract made with Sir Cornelius Verunyden.

And whereas, at a Sessions of Sewers holden at King's Lynn, in the said county of Norfolk, upon the first day of September now last past, the Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled, being forty-seven in number, in the behalf of themselves and the rest of the country, did contract with Sir Cornelius Verunyden, Knight, that he the said Sir Cornelius should at his own charge undertake and perform the draining of the said marsh, fenny, waste and surrounded grounds, in such

sort, as is hereafter in and by these presents expressed; and that he the said Sir Cornelius, his heirs and assigns, should for his and their recompence have and enjoy ninety thousand acres, parcel of the said marsh, fenny, waste and surrounded grounds, to be allotted and assigned unto him equally and indifferently, in such sort, manner and form, as hereafter in and by these presents shall be expressed.

And whereas, he the said Sir Cornelius Verunyden hath, upon a map or card, described the said fenny, marsh, waste and surrounded grounds, and the outfalls thereof, by lines or other descriptions, and also by writing, expressed and set down to the Commissioners of Sewers, what drains, sasses, sluces, banks, cuts and other works, he intended to make for the draining of the said surrounded grounds, which was well approved of by the said Commissioners now present, and he was contented to have undertaken the said work, so as he might have had ninety-five thousand acres in all, to be allotted and assigned unto him for his charge and pains, and not otherwise; but the Commissioners and country being unwilling to enlarge the quantity or number of acres unto him, and the country by their several petitions, remaining with the Clerk of the Sewers, shewing much unwillingness that any contract should be made with an alien born, or any other stranger, and being humble suitors to the Right Honourable the Earl of Bedford now present, for so great and so noble a work, so much concerning the whole country, and his Lordship also in his own particular would be the undertaker thereof, which motion proceeding so freely from the country, and being seconded by all the Commissioners present, his Lordship yielded unto, and did agree to undertake the said work.

Sir Cornelius Verunyden demands for the draining.

Now, the said Earl, according to the agreements in these presents expressed, doth promise and undertake,

Earl of Bedford doth undertake the draining

within six  
years.

that he shall and will do his best endeavour at his own charge, to drain the said marsh, fenny, waste and surrounded grounds, in such manner as that they shall be fit for meadow or pasture, or arable, and shall begin the said work this present year, and continue and go on with the said work without cessation, except at such times only, as shall be unseasonable for that purpose, until the whole work shall be fully finished; and that by God's blessing he will fully finish the same within the compass of six years, to be accounted from the first day of October now next ensuing, unless he be hindered by the interruption of the country, or some others by their means, consent or procurement, or by such other casual means, as the Commissioners of Sewers, or the greatest number of them, in their judgments shall approve to be just reasons for the further deferring thereof; and the said Earl to have no recompence for his charges and pains, otherwise than according to the true meaning of these presents hereafter expressed; but because the said surrounded lands are so spacious, and many parts thereof lie so far distant from the Sea, and from the several outfalls, as that it is impossible to contrive the work so, but that a great part of the said now surrounded lands will be overflown with sudden waters, until by outlets or otherwise the same can be discharged, and so by drains or otherwise led along to the outfalls; it is agreed that such out-flowings by sudden waters, which shall not lie longer upon the lands than in convenient time the same may pass away again, shall not be held or esteemed to be a not draining thereof, according to the true meaning of these presents.

No lakes,  
meers or fore-  
lands to be ac-  
counted any  
part of the said  
land given for  
the draining.

And it is further enacted, adjudged, ordered and decreed, That meers, meer grounds, pooles and lakes, and such grounds as shall according to art, and by the approbation of the Commissioners be left for forelands and receptacles of waters, shall not be accounted to be such

grounds, as the said Earl by his agreement should drain, nor shall be accounted any part of those grounds, by or out of which he is to have his recompence for the said work.

And it is further enacted, ordered, adjudged and decreed, That the said Earl shall have ninety-five thousand acres of the said lands to be indifferently allotted, assigned and set out unto him of the several sorts and qualities of the said grounds, according to their several natures and goodness, by six of the Commissioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of the quorum; upon which setting out, and allotments to be made, the Commissioners, who shall set out the same, are to have respect to the commoners, that their parts may lie next to their own dwellings, as near as may conveniently be.

The Earl of Bedford to have 95000 acres, &c. the commoners' parts to be laid out next to their dwelling.

And it is agreed that the proportion aforesaid, intended for and unto the said Earl as aforesaid, shall be allotted and set out before the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel now next ensuing, for so much thereof as before that time shall be surveyed, and for the residue within three months after the same shall be surveyed: And to the end that the said work of draining being once performed and finished, may be for ever after maintained; It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Commissioners, together with the said Earl, shall become humble suitors to his Majesty, to incorporate the said Earl, and such as he shall associate unto him, into one body corporate or politick, to have continuance for ever, thereby to enable them the better to make laws, ordinances and orders, for the performing and maintaining of the said works, and to have power over the land assigned, to perform and maintain the said works as hereafter followeth; but over no other lands, and that the whole ninety-five thousand acres shall entirely be made liable to the first doing and finishing thereof; And that forty thousand acres thereof, to be in-

Earl of Bedford's part to be set out within three months after the survey.

A corporation and 40000 acres of the Earl's proportion to be liable for the preservation of the works for ever.



differently assigned and set out for that purpose by the Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be liable to the maintenance and continuance thereof for ever; And the said forty thousand acres first and immediately to be under the order and government of the said corporation for the end aforesaid; And upon their neglect or default, to be under the rule, order, and power of the Commissioners of Sewers for that purpose aforesaid.

So soon as 30000 acres in one entire quantity shall be drained, the Earl to have his allotment of part of it made.

And it is further ordered, adjudged, enacted and decreed, That as soon and so often, as the said Earl or his assigns shall have laid dry and drained an intire proportion of the said land, fit to be performed as one work, containing the quantity of thirty thousand acres or more; that then and so often the said Earl shall have allotted, assigned, set out, and assured unto and for him, his heirs and assigns, his proportion and part thereof, according to the rate and proportion of ninety-five thousand acres, for the whole work.

Divisions to be made by the land owners.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the owners of the said lands shall divide and sever their lands one from another, unless they shall rather desire to lie undivided, by such sufficient partitions, dikes and fences, as shall be necessary to convey or carry away the rain water towards the great drains, and that such partitions and fence dikes, if any such should be made, shall be made by them in such an uniform manner, as may best conduce to the perfecting of the whole work, by the advice of the said Earl or of the said corporation; but by the direction of the said Commissioners.

Highways and passages.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the Commissioners of Sewers shall or may set out convenient highways and passages by land throughout the said whole level, such as by the judgment of the said Commissioners shall be necessary to make passages and drifts to and from the said lands by bridges or otherwise.

Provided always, and it is further ordered, enacted, Provision for navigation. adjudged and decreed, That the port and haven of King's Lynn shall be preserved, and the navigation passage and highways, in, upon and about all and every the navigable rivers within the limits of this commission, as namely, the river of Ouze, Grant, Nean, Welland and Glean, shall be likewise preserved, and no prejudice, annoyance, hurt or hindrance done to them or any of them, by any of the means aforesaid; And if it should happen that any such prejudice, annoyance, hurt or hindrance shall be committed or done in, upon or about any of the said navigable rivers, contrary to the intent and meaning of this law; that upon complaint thereof, it shall and may be lawful from time to time for eight of the said Commissioners, whereof the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge for the time being, and the Mayors of King's Lynn aforesaid and Cambridge for the time also being, shall be three, if they will be present, to reform, abate, prosterne and amove all such prejudices, annoyances, hurts and hindrances, and every of them, so that the ancient navigation passages and highways may be restored and continued, in, upon and about the said navigable rivers, as heretofore hath been used and accustomed; any thing in this law to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And, it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That for the safety of Holland, hundred of Wisbich, and other parts thereabouts, Clowes Cross Drain shall be kept within soil or banks, or if any prejudice shall happen thereby, that six of the Commissioners shall from time to time reform the excesses, or else that the said Earl or his assigns shall make recompence for the losses which shall happen thereby, to the particular owners of the lands thereby annoyed.

For the safety of Holland, hundred of Wisbich, Clowes Cross Drain to be kept under soil.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, All new rivers, cuts, &c. to belong to the That the new rivers, cuts and drains to be made by the



Earl, old ones  
to the former  
owners.

said Earl and his assigns, and the banks thereof, and the forelands on the inside of the bank not exceeding fifty or threescore foot at the most in breadth, shall belong and be to the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, in respect he and they are to maintain the same, he and they paying, for the several lands of any particular owner thereof, such recompence as the Commissioners shall think fit; And that there shall be no passages made or suffered by or upon the said banks, except only for towing of boats along the same, in such sort as shall be allowed by the Commissioners; But it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the old and ancient rivers and drains, and the fishings thereof, shall be and continue unto the owners thereof, in such sort as formerly they did, or hereafter shall of right belong, only they shall not therein or thereupon make, erect or maintain any weres, fish-garths, damms, or other impediments, whereby the river or passage of the water may be hindered, which if they shall at any time do, and the same be not removed and abated by themselves within ten days after monition to that purpose given by the said corporation, that then the said corporation, by warrant of the Commissioners of Sewers or any two of them, shall cause the same to be removed according to the law of sewers, at the charge of those who erected or continued those nuisances.

Liberty to  
make drains  
and cuts, and  
take earth any  
where, giving  
recompence  
only for the  
severals.

And it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Earl, his assigns and workmen, may freely take such earth, and dig and make such drains and cuts, for the making and maintaining of all and every of the said works, off and from the lands next or near adjoining to the place, as shall be needful, making such allowance and recompence for the damage which may happen thereby to any private person, by digging of his several land, as the Commissioners shall adjudge to be just and equal: And if any riotous or unlawful act shall be committed either openly or secretly, to the de-

struction of any part of the said works, or to the hindrance or impediment thereof, the said Commissioners shall from time to time assist the said Earl, his assignees or workmen, to repress and suppress all such insolences and disturbances, and shall, either at their sessions or otherwise, do their best endeavours to discover and severely punish the offenders.

And it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged, and decreed, That the owners, farmers, and occupiers of all such grounds or banks, as shall have and receive benefit or ease by their works, and yet no part of their lands shall be taken and allotted towards the making up of the said ninety-five thousand acres, shall contribute and pay unto the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, such sums of money as the said Commissioners or any six of them, whereof three of them to be of the quorum, shall rate, assess and adjudge to be reasonable, having respect to the profit and ease which they and every of them respectively shall receive by means of the said works, upon pain to forfeit double the sum for every month by which it shall be unpaid.

And the said Earl doth desire, and the said Commissioners for his better encouragement do promise and agree, that they will become humble suitors with him the said Earl unto his Majesty; that the said ninety-five thousand acres to be assigned and assured unto him, his heirs and assigns, for his recompence as aforesaid, may be held in free and common socage, and not otherwise, and without paying any rent thereout, or giving any recompence for the same, unto the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, other than a fee farm rent of ten pounds per the year; and that if any other rents are or shall happen to be issuing or payable out of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, to his Majesty, or to any other person or persons, body corporate and politick, the same from time of the allotment, assigning

Melioration.

The Earl's proportion to be held in free socage, paying his Majesty a fee-farm rent of 10*l.* yearly, and free of all other incumbrances.

or assuring thereof to the said Earl, his heirs and assigns as aforesaid, shall be charged upon the residue of the lands out of which the same are or shall be issuing, and the part or portion allotted and assigned to the said Earl, his heirs or assigns, for his recompence as aforesaid, to be thereof discharged or saved harmless for ever.

And to the end the said Earl may the more confidently undertake and perfect the said work, and be assured to enjoy the said ninety-five thousand acres, as the fruit and recompence of his labour and charge; and the country also may be the better assured of, to have and enjoy that benefit by the said work, which they expect in the residue of said lands now surrounded, in lieu of so great a quantity of land, which they are to part with as aforesaid.

His Majesty to release all benefits of the Act of Sewers made to his father 19 Ja., and to confirm this act to accept of 12000 acres for the favour.

It is mutually agreed and fully concluded by and between the said Commissioners and the said Earl, that they shall become humble suitors to the King's most excellent Majesty, that his Majesty would vouchsafe to release under his great seal all benefits which he might challenge by the law of sewers, made in the nineteenth year of the reign of King James, or by any other law or decree of sewers, and to approve of and confirm this act and decree, and by his royal hand signing the same to declare his royal approbation thereof, and assent thereunto, and so to recommend it to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, that it may in the due form of law be confirmed by the decree of the honourable Court of Chancery; and that his Majesty would also vouchsafe to recommend it to the right honourable the lords and others of his Majesty's most honourable privy council, that it may there be ordered as matter of state not to be altered or impeached, having received the approbation of that honourable board, and that whensoever a parliament shall be called, and a bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parlia-

ment, and the same be then passed as a law, his Majesty would be graciously pleased for the full and final confirmation thereof, to give his royal assent thereunto, and that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for these his royal favours vouchsafed to this poor distressed part of his country, which can receive no relief or help; but by his royal hands in giving life to this law, to accept of the quantity of twelve thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to be assured by the said Earl or his heirs, to the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, to be held and enjoyed by them for ever, freed and discharged of and from all right, title or interest of common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the said Earl, or any other person or persons whatever; the said twelve thousand acres to be layed together in one or two entire pieces or quantities, out of such of the said surrounded lands as now are parcel of the manor of Whittlesey, or other manors thereto adjoining; which quantity of twelve thousand acres the said Earl and country, by an unanimous consent, do humbly offer unto his Majesty as a thankful acknowledgment of his gracious favour, in recommending the said work and perfecting the same with his royal favour and assent, as aforesaid.

Provided always, and it is lastly ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That when it shall fall out, the several lands or half several lands of any owner shall lie in such small portions together, as do not exceed the quantity of thirty acres in any one piece together, whereby it shall or may be inconvenient and over chargeable to divide a proportionable part thereof, to be allotted to the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, and severed out from the residue of the said parcels of lands, which are to remain to the owner and owners thereof, that in every such case the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, at his and their own choice, shall either have

*Composition to be given to the Earl for small proportions being in severalty.*

the lands in kind allotted unto them, and to be severed out by them, or shall have so much recompence in money paid to him or them for the same, as six of the said Commissioners, whereof three to be of the quorum, shall reasonably value the same to be worth; such money to be paid within three months then next following, or else in default of payment thereof, to incur the penalty of twenty shillings for every acre of the said small proportions of land, and so after that rate for every three months the same shall be unpaid.

In witness whereof, the Commissioners above named have hereunto put their hands and seals, the day and year above written.

Nos autem sep'al' tenores ordinat' sive Decret' prædict' ad requisitionem Francisci Comitis Bedford, duximus exemplificand' per præsentēs, In cujus rei Testimonium has literas nostras fecimus patentes, Ac eisdem tam magnum sigill' nostrum Angliæ quam Sigillum nostrum Ducat' nostri Lancast' apponi fecimus, Teste me ipso apud Canbury sexto decimo die Julii Anno Regni nostri septimo.

CESAR.

ROB. RICH,                    }  
JOS. MITCHEL,               } Clericos.



## No. XIII.

THE

## INDENTURE OF FOURTEEN PARTS.

1631.

20 Feb. 7 Car. I. 1631.

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THIS indenture, consisting of fourteen parts, made the seven and twentieth day of February, in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. between the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Bedford, of the first part; Oliver Earl of Bullingbrooke, of the second part; Edward Lord Gorges, of the third part; Sir Robert Heath, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of the fourth part; Sir Miles Sandys, of Wilberton within the Isle of Ely, in the county of Cambridge, Knight and Baronet, of the fifth part; Sir William Russell, of Chipenham in the said county of Cambridge, Knight and Baronet, of the sixth part; Sir Robert Bevill, of Chesterton in the county of Huntingdon, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, of the seventh part; Sir Thomas Tyringham, of Tyringham in the county of Buckingham, Knight, of the eighth part; Sir Philibert Vernatt, of Carleton in the county of York, Knight, of the ninth part; William Sames, Doctor of the Law, of the tenth part; Anthony Hamond, of Saint Albons in the county of Kent, Esquire, of the eleventh part; Samuel Spalding, of the town of Cambridge in the said county of Cambridge, Gentleman, of the twelfth part;

Parties to this indenture.



Recital of part  
Lynn law.

Andrews Burrell, of London, Gent., of the thirteenth part; and Sir Robert Lovett, of Liscombe in the said county of Bucks, Knight, of the fourteenth part; witnesseth, That whereas a Sessions of Sewers was, by his Majesty's commission under his Highnesses great seal of England, holden at King's Lynn in the county of Norfolk, the thirteenth day of January, in the sixth year of his now Majesty's reign, for the fenny and surrounded grounds within the said county of Norfolk, and the counties of Suffolk, Northampton, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Lincoln and the Isle of Ely, which commission was specially intended for the great work of the draining of the great fens and other low grounds lying surrounded in those several counties, within the limits of the said commission, containing by estimation the quantity of three hundred and threescore thousand acres of drowned or surrounded lands, or thereabouts: At which Sessions, upon the petitions of divers the inhabitants and owners of the said fenny and surrounded grounds, lying and being within the said several counties, which said petitions are remaining with the Clerk of Sewers, and at the earnest desire of the rest of the Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled, the said Right Honourable Francis Earl of Bedford, who was likewise one of the Commissioners and then present, being a great owner of those fennies, was moved to the end that so noble a work might be effectually performed, that his Lordship would be the undertaker thereof upon such condition as should be agreed upon between his Lordship and the rest of the Commissioners, on the behalf of the said several counties; unto which motion the said Earl, out of his desire to further so publick and good a work, did give his consent, and thereupon it was ordered and decreed by the rest of the said Commissioners, that the said Earl should undertake the said work at his own charge, and should have the quantity of ninety-five thousand acres of the said surrounded lands, for his recompence, to be

assigned, set out and assured to him and his assigns, in such sort, as by the said act of sewers is expressed; twelve thousand acres whereof, are to be granted and disposed of to the King's Majesty, for his use, as by the said act it doth appear. And whereas the said Earl undertook so great a work upon the confidence he had of the aid and assistance therein from divers other gentlemen, who by his good example and encouragement would become adventurers with him, since which time the parties to these presents have agreed to become adventurers, and the said Earl is willing to admit them to be adventurers with him in the said work, according to the several proportions following; that is to say, That the whole proportion of land to be allotted and assured in the recompence of the said work, shall be divided into twenty whole shares, of which shares the said Earl of Bedford doth agree to adventure for two whole shares; Oliver Earl of Bullingbrooke for one whole share; Edward Lord Gorges for one whole share; Sir Robert Heath for one whole share; Sir Miles Sandys for two whole shares; Sir William Russell for two whole shares; Sir Robert Bevill for one whole share; Sir Thomas Tyringham for two whole shares; Sir Philibert Vernatt for one whole share; Doctor Sames for one whole share; Anthony Hamond for two whole shares; Samuel Spalding for one whole share; Andrews Burrell for one whole share; and Sir Robert Lovatt for one whole share: Now it is severally covenanted, condescended and agreed upon, by and between the said parties to these presents; And the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and every of them severally and respectively for himself and themselves, his and their

Earl of Bedford undertakes the work, on confidence that others would become adventurers.

Proportion of land divided into twenty shares.

Number of shares each adventurer engages for.

Adventurers agree to sustain proportional shares of the charge.

In consideration whereof the Earl of Bedford agrees that said adventurers shall be his assigns of the recompence in just proportions according to each man's adventure.

several and respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with each other, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, by these presents, That they the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and every of them, their and every of their executors, administrators and assigns, shall and will bear and sustain the charge of the said work, in such several proportions and in such manner, as in and by these presents it is expressed. And whereas, by the true intent and meaning of the said act and law of sewers, the part and portion of the said Earl of Bedford is to be allotted and set out unto himself, his heirs and assigns, in recompence for the said work, as by the said act and law it doth more fully appear: Now he the said Earl of Bedford, for the consideration aforesaid, that is to say, That they the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and their assigns, are to bear and sustain their proportionable parts of the charge of the said work, undertaking together with the said Earl of Bedford, in such sort as is in and by these presents expressed, and shall pay and disburse such monies as shall be necessary and required for the said work, in such proportions, as herein is expressed, doth by these presents for himself, his heirs and assigns, grant unto them the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony



Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and doth hereby also declare, That they the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, are and shall be the assigns of him the said Earl of Bedford, to whom and to whose heirs and assigns, as far forth as to the said Earl of Bedford himself and his heirs, according to their several proportions aforesaid, all the lands, tenements, fishings, and other hereditaments and profits, which by the said law and act of sewers are appointed, or mentioned to come unto him the said Earl, in recompence of the said work of draining, shall be indifferently assigned and set forth, in just and due proportions and shares, according to every man's several adventures as aforesaid. And the said Earl of Bedford doth hereby further grant, and his intent and meaning is hereby declared to be, that as soon and as often as any such quantity or portion of land within the said fens shall be drained by the charges of the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, or their heirs or assigns, as by the intent of the said law and act of sewers, the proportionable part and portion of the said land intended for the said Earl's recompence, is to be assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of Bedford and his assigns; That then and so often all such lands from time to time, and at all times, shall be justly and indifferently assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell,

Earl of Bedford to assign as often as any quantity of land is drained.

Adventurers to have proportional share of all profits, and same remedy against Commissioners that the Earl himself might have.

Adventurers for every share to expend 500*l.* or more if necessary, on notice in writing from two or more of the adventurers.

Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, Sir Robert Lovatt, and their heirs and assigns, according to their several adventures as aforesaid. And that they the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and their heirs and assigns, shall be equal sharers herein, and in all other profit and benefit either in money, toll, composition, or other kind or nature whatsoever, arising, increasing, coming, accruing, or happening by the said work or draining, or by reason and in regard of the same with him the said Earl, according to their several proportions and shares of money in the said adventure as aforesaid; and shall have all such remedy and advantage to compel the said Commissioners to convey and assure the said lands to them according to their said shares, as the said Earl himself should or might have, and shall have and enjoy all profit, commodities, privileges, and benefits granted, or to be granted, to the said Earl of Bedford, as undertaker of the said work of draining, or to any corporation to be erected or made according to the said law, to them and every of them, their heirs and assigns, severally and respectively. And it is also covenanted, condescended, and fully agreed on, by and between the said parties to these presents; and they the said Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, Sir Robert Lovatt, and every of them severally and respectively for himself and themselves, his and their several and respective heirs, executors, administrators

and assigns, do covenant, promise, and grant, to and with each other, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, by these presents; That each of them, the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, and their heirs, shall and will disburse and expend for one whole share the sum of five hundred pounds of lawful money of England. And if the said sum of five hundred pounds for every whole share shall not be thought sufficient, then so much more money over and above the said sum of five hundred pounds, as shall be requisite for the beginning of the first work, and so from time to time such other sum and sums of lawful money of England, as shall be declared to be needful and expedient for the said work by the greater number of them, or of their assigns, according to their several proportions and shares as aforesaid. Notice in writing to be left at their houses, under the hands of any two or more of the adventurers. And further it is mutually covenanted, condescended, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the parties to these presents, That each of them, the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, shall and may, at his and their free will and pleasure, assign, set over, and convey his or their adventure and share, in or concerning the premisses, or such parts and proportions of the same, as shall be allotted and allowed unto him or them, or any part thereof; so as each of his and their assigns respectively, shall and do perform and pay what they and every of them, the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bul-

Adventurers  
may assign  
their shares.



If adventurers  
fail their pay-  
ments after ten  
days warning,  
to be excluded  
all benefit.

lingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyingham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, have undertaken and by these presents have bound themselves to perform and pay. And likewise it is agreed, that it shall and may be lawful to and for every such assignee and assignees, and for their assigns, from time to time to assign, grant, set over and convey, his and their adventure and share so assigned, or such part and portion of the premisses as aforesaid. And also it is mutually covenanted, granted, concluded, condescended, and fully agreed upon by and between the said parties to these presents, their heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, that if it shall happen any one of them, the said Earl of Bedford, Earl of Bullingbrooke, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Miles Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Thomas Tyingham, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Doctor Sames, Anthony Hamond, Samuel Spalding, Andrews Burrell, and Sir Robert Lovatt, or their assigns, after ten days warning given by the greatest part of the parties to these presents, at their respective habitations, to fail in the payment and disbursements of his or their part of monies, by him or them from time to time to be paid and disbursed as aforesaid, That then it shall and may be lawful to and for the rest of the said parties or their assigns, to supply and make up the same, or to admit some other person or persons, in his or their room or rooms who shall or do fail as aforesaid, if they shall so think fit; And that such party as aforesaid, by himself or his assigns failing, shall be wholly excluded from taking any benefit of the premisses as aforesaid; and shall lose and for ever be debarred from having or demanding all or any such sum or sums of money, as by any such person or persons shall have formerly been paid or disbursed for and towards the said work. And if it shall

happen any of the parties to these presents to die, that then the executors, administrators or assigns of him or them so dying respectively, shall have the same benefit, profit and interest, of or in the share, adventure or proportion, belonging to the party or parties so deceasing, as the party or parties so deceasing shall have, or might have had to all intents and purposes: Such executors, administrators and assigns, paying and performing such payments, covenants and agreements in every respect, as the party or parties so deceasing should or ought to do. And it is lastly, punctually covenanted, granted and agreed, by and between all the said parties to these presents, that they, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, shall at any time hereafter do, make, suffer and execute every act, conveyance and assurance, for the settling, conveying and assuring severally any such quantity, share or proportion of land, or other profit, to all or any the parties to these presents, their executors, administrators or assigns respectively, requiring the same; As by the true meaning of these presents, doth or shall belong unto them, or as is hereby intended unto them by such manner of conveyance and assurance, or by such other manner as shall be reasonably devised or required. In witness whereof, the parties to these present indentures, have interchangeably set to their hands and seals, the day and year first above-written.

FRANCIS BEDFORD, (LS.)  
EDWARD GORGES, (LS.)  
ROBERT HEATH, (LS.)  
MILES SANDYS, (LS.)  
THOMAS TYRINGHAM, (LS.)  
ROBERT BEVILL, (LS.)  
PHILIBERT VERNATT, (LS.)  
ANTHONY HAMOND, (LS.)  
WILLIAM SAMES, (LS.)

Sealed and delivered by my Lord of Bedford, Lord  
Gorges, Sir Robert Heath, Sir Thomas Tying-

ham, Sir Robert Bevill, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Anthony Hamond, in the presence of us,

ROBERT SCAWEN,  
JOHN SHEER.

J637.

## No. XIV.

THE

## CHARTER OF INCORPORATION,

Bearing date the 13th of March, the 10th of Charles  
the First.

Translated into English.

CHARLES, by the Grace of God, of England,  
France and Ireland, King, Defender of the  
Faith, &c.

To all to whom these presents shall come greeting.

Recital of the  
Lynn law.

WHEREAS at a Sessions of Sewers, holden at King's Lynn in our county of Norfolk, the thirteenth day of January, in the sixth year of our reign, concerning the draining of the fens and marshy grounds in our counties of Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, lying within the limits

of our commission, in the presence of our dearly beloved and faithful cousin Francis Earl of Bedford, and before Sir Robert Heath, Knight, our then Attorney General, Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, and divers others to the number of forty and one, Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled, by virtue of our Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, many good and wholesome acts, ordinances and decrees were made by our Commissioners, for and concerning the draining of the said fens and marshy grounds.

And whereas as well our Commissioners aforesaid, as the people there, whom the draining the said drowned lands did concern, humbly besought of the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, that he the said Earl himself would be pleased to undertake so great and famous a work, conducive as well to the good of the people of the said counties as of the Earl himself; to which prayers and entreaties the said Earl consenting, did agree to undertake the aforesaid work. And thereupon it was enacted, adjudged, ordained, and decreed, That for a recompence of the great labour and expence of the said Earl in performing the said work, he should have ninety-five thousand acres of the said land, to be indifferently allotted and set out to him, of the several sorts and qualities of the said grounds, according to their several natures and goodness, by six of the said Commissioners. And to the intent that as well the said Earl might with greater confidence undertake and perform the said work, and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand acres, as that the people of the said counties might have and enjoy the advantage they expected, from the remainder of the drowned lands, in lieu of the proportion they had given up, as aforesaid:—It was mutually and fully agreed upon, by and between the said Commissioners and the said Earl, that they should become humble suitors to us, that we would, under our great seal of England, release all the benefit which by a law of

sewers, made in the nineteenth year of the reign of our late most dearly beloved father, king James, or by any other law of sewers, we might claim; and also that we would be pleased to confirm their acts or decrees, and, by our royal hand signing the same, to declare our royal approbation thereof, and assent thereunto. And that we would further graciously be pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of our Great Seal, that they may in due form of law be confirmed and ratified, by decree of our Honourable High Court of Chancery. And that we would vouchsafe to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lords and others of our most Honourable Privy Council, to be by them ordered as a matter of state, not to be altered or impeached, having received the approbation of that honourable board; and that whensoever a Parliament should be called, and a bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same being there passed as a law, that we would be graciously pleased, for the full and final confirmation thereof, to give our royal assent thereunto. And that we would be graciously pleased for these our royal favours, vouchsafed to this poor distressed part of our country, which could receive no relief or help, but by our royal hands in giving life to their laws, to accept of the quantity of twelve thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to be assured to us, our heirs and successors, freed and discharged of and from all right, title, or interest of common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the said Earl, or any other person or persons whatsoever. The said twelve thousand acres to be laid together in one or two entire pieces, or quantities, out of such of the said drowned lands as now are parcel of the manor of Whittlesea, or other manors thereto adjoining: which quantity of twelve thousand acres the said Earl and country by an unanimous consent, have humbly offered unto us,

as a thankful acknowledgment of our gracious favour, in recommending the said work, and perfecting the same with our royal favour and assent as aforesaid; which voluntary and free offering of the said Earl and our people we have most graciously accepted, and by these presents do accept.

And whereas we, highly favouring the aforesaid great, arduous, and praise-worthy work, have declared our approbation of the said acts and decrees, by our royal hand signing the same. And we have, for the better government, progress, and completion of the aforesaid work, by our letters patents lately on this behalf granted, made, appointed, and created the said Earl, and others of our subjects, a body politic, by the name of Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Fens in our Counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, and the Isle of Ely, and have thereby invested them with divers gifts, grants, liberties, rights, and immunities.

Recital of former letters patent.

And whereas, in the said letters patents it is set forth, that in consideration of our granting the said charter, the aforesaid governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, promised to grant unto us, our heirs and successors, twelve thousand acres within the level of the fens aforesaid, not covered with water, but drained, in proper places, on the view of viewers to be appointed by our treasurer of England, to be held free of all common, and other charges and services, which said twelve thousand acres, named in the aforesaid acts, ordinances, and decrees of our Commissioners aforesaid, and the aforesaid twelve thousand acres mentioned in our letters patents aforesaid, are intended to be one and the same twelve thousand acres, and not others and different: Know ye therefore that we, willing to take away entirely all doubts and questions which may in any wise hereafter arise thereon, and likewise declaring by these presents that we



are fully satisfied with the twelve thousand acres, granted or mentioned to be granted to us, our heirs and successors, as set forth in the aforesaid acts and decrees, have, of our special grace, from our own certain knowledge and meer motion, forgiven, remised, released, and quitted claim, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do forgive, remise, release, and quit claim to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors, the aforesaid twelve thousand acres, promised or mentioned to be promised in these our said letters patents, and every parcel thereof, and all our right, title, claim, interest and demand whatever, of, in, and to the said twelve thousand acres, or any parcel thereof, by virtue or colour of our said letters patents afore recited; and also all and singular promises or pretences of promise, of and concerning the aforesaid twelve thousand acres of land in our said letters patents contained and expressed, or in any wise touching the same. Saving always to ourselves, our heirs and successors, the aforesaid twelve thousand acres, in the aforesaid act, ordinances, and decrees of our Commissioners of Sewers aforesaid expressed, and to us, our heirs and successors granted or mentioned to be granted.

Letters patents  
above recited  
surrendered up.

And whereas the aforesaid governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, have humbly besought us to accept from them of the surrender of our said letters patents before mentioned, but with an intention that we would vouchsafe to grant them other letters patents, with the same and other gifts, powers, privileges, and immunities conducive to the promoting of the work aforesaid; which surrender we have accepted, and do accept by these presents.

Earl of Bedford and his  
participants  
will endeavour  
at their own  
expence, to

And whereas our dearly beloved and faithful cousin, Francis Earl of Bedford aforesaid, and others of our loving subjects his participants, consenting to the entreaties of many, have earnestly endeavoured, and will endeavour,

at their own great expence, to make the aforesaid marshes and fen grounds, in our aforesaid counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Suffolk, and Norfolk, and the Isle of Ely, containing three hundred and sixty thousand acres of land, or thereabouts, (from which, being covered with water, little advantage redounds to mankind, except from some few river fish and water fowl) into land, meadows and pasture, to the great advantage as well as of those parts as of the public, in which they have made such a progress, that hereafter, as it was hoped, in those places, which lately presented nothing to the eyes of the beholder but great waters, and a few reeds thinly scattered here and there, under the Divine Mercy might be seen pleasant pastures of cattle and kyne, and many houses belonging to the inhabitants. But because such a body of water cannot always be drained off and kept from those places, but by the erecting and making of meers, banks, dams, dykes, tunnels, sluices, bridges and causeys, and other works, and by the continuing and supporting the same, which will require a daily expence; and to the continual support of the charge attending so great a work, forty thousand acres of those drained fens are intended to be set out by proper bounds, from the rents, issues and profits of which the said charge is to be borne, which cannot be so well managed by individuals, who are often dying, and who leave their heirs minors or women, by no means equal to such a direction, as if the expending the same and the continuing the premises was intrusted to the care of discreet men, in a political and corporate succession.

make the fens meadow and pasture.

But it cannot be done without works which require great expence. For which purpose 40000 acres to be set out; from profits of which the charge is to be borne. But it cannot be managed but by a corporation.

Know ye therefore that we, taking the premises into our consideration, and being willing to aid and assist the progress and completion of the said work, by all means that we can, and graciously consenting to the petition of the aforesaid governor and commonalty of the society, touching the premises aforesaid, of our special grace, and

Society of conservators of the fens made a body corporate and politic. Earl of Bedford and others made the said body by the name of "Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society of Conservators of the Fens."

To have perpetual succession, purchase lands and tenements, and do all other corporate acts.

from our certain knowledge and meer motion, we will that for ever hereafter there be and shall be one society of conservators of the fens, within our counties aforesaid, framed into one body corporate and politic. And we do for ourselves, our heirs and successors, make, create and appoint the aforesaid Francis Earl of Bedford, and his participants, Oliver Earl of Bullingbrooke, Henry Lord Maltrevers, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Francis Crane, Knight, Chancellor of the most noble Order of the Garter, Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Knight, Sir Robert Lovett, Knight, Sir Filibert Vernat, Knight, Sir Miles Sandys, Knight, William Sams, LL.D. Oliver Saint John, Esquire, Anthony Hamond, Esquire, and Samuel Spalding, Gentleman, and others to be elected in the form hereafter directed, and their successors, in the society aforesaid, a body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, to have succession for ever, by the name of Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society of Conservators of the Fens, in our Counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and the Isle of Ely, and by these presents will that they be called by the name aforesaid; and that of them, one be governor, another deputy governor, two be bailiffs, and the rest be of the commonalty of the society aforesaid, and that they and others, to be elected and admitted in the form following into that society, and their successors by the same name, may have perpetual succession. And that they, and their successors, be and shall be, in all future times, persons fit and capable in law to have, purchase, possess, and retain lands, tenements, and hereditaments, to themselves and successors, in fee and inheritance, or for term of life or lives, or years, and goods and chattels, and rights, and debts of whatsoever kind, nature, or species. And also to give, assign, demise, and dispose of the said lands, tenements, and hereditaments, goods and chattels; and

also that they may, by the name aforesaid, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all courts and places, and before all the judges, justices, officers, ministers of us, our heirs and successors, in all actions, pleas, complaints, and demands, in manner and form, as any other of our liege subjects fit and capable in law, or as any other body politic and corporate, may and doth.

Our will moreover is, and by these presents, for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we grant to the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, That the aforesaid Francis Earl of Bedford, be the first and present governor of the society aforesaid, and the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, be the first deputy governor, and the aforesaid Sir Thomas Tyringham, Knight, and Sir Miles Sandys, Knight, be and shall be the first and present bailiffs of the society aforesaid, and the aforesaid Oliver Earl of Bullingbroke, Henry Lord Maltrevers, Edward Lord Gorges, Sir Francis Crane, Knight, Sir Robert Lovett, Knight, Sir Philibert Vernatt, Knight, William Sams, Oliver Saint John, Anthony Hamond, and Samuel Spalding be and shall be the first and present commonalty of the society aforesaid. And we make, ordain, and create the said Francis Earl of Bedford, the first and present governor, and the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, the first and present deputy governor, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Knight, and Sir Miles Sandys, Knight, the first and present bailiffs, Oliver Earl of Bullingbroke, Henry Lord Maltrevers, Edward Lord Gorges, Francis Crane, Robert Lovett, Philibert Vernatt, William Sams, Oliver Saint John, Anthony Hamond, and Samuel Spalding the first and present commonalty of the society aforesaid. Which governor, our will is, do continue in his office until the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and thirty-

The Earl of Bedford and others, appointed the first governor, bailiffs and commonalty.



To have a common seal, and power of altering the same.

five, and from thence until he or another be elected into the place of governor of the said society. And that each of the said bailiffs shall continue in their said offices respectively until the said feast, and from thence till they or others are elected into the place and office of bailiffs of the society aforesaid. And that each of the commonalty of the society aforesaid shall respectively continue of the said commonalty to the end of their respective lives, unless for just cause, any one of the aforesaid governor, deputy governor, bailiffs, or commonalty be removed from his place. And that the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors, may have a Common Seal, for carrying on any of the causes or business of themselves and their successors; and that it be lawful for them the said seal at their will and pleasure to break and change, and make new, as often and in such manner as to them shall seem fit.

To have a common hall, there to meet and assemble, and elect governor and deputy governor, and bailiffs.

And moreover for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we grant to the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, in any convenient place within the Isle of Ely, to be fixed upon by the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, our leave to have a certain Council Chamber and Common Hall, and therein on the twenty-ninth day of September in every year, and oftener if the necessity of the case requires it, themselves to assemble and meet, and with the free choice of the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, or the major part of those who will attend, to nominate and elect one discrete and proper person, out of the deputy governor or commonalty of the said society, to be governor of the said society; who, being so elected, shall remain and continue in the said office until the twenty-ninth day of September then next following, and from thence until he or some other be elected governor in his room, unless in the mean time, for a just cause, he be duly removed

from his place. And also to nominate and elect one honest and discreet man to be deputy governor of the society aforesaid, and two others to be bailiffs of the society aforesaid; who being so elected into the said offices, shall severally remain and continue therein until the twenty-ninth day of September then next following, and from thence until they or some of them, or others, be elected in their room, unless in the mean time, for just cause, they or any of them be duly removed from their places. And also that all those, who are seised of not less than fifty acres of the said fen lands in fee and inheritance, may for the time being admit, elect, and put into the commonalty of the said society whomever they will; and also admit, elect, put in others in the room of those who die or are removed, as often as to them shall seem necessary. And our will is that the said governor and deputy governor, and each of the said bailiffs, and any of the said commonalty, be for just cause removable, and to be removed by a majority of the governor, deputy governor, and bailiffs and commonalty of the said society as aforesaid, duly summoned, and who shall be present; and if it shall happen that the said governor, deputy governor, or bailiffs, or any of the commonalty of the society aforesaid, do die, or shall be removed, by which his place or office shall become vacant, then it shall be lawful for the surviving governor, deputy governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, themselves to assemble and meet, and then and there another person or persons to be governor, deputy governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, in the form aforesaid, in the room and stead of them the said governor, deputy governor, bailiffs, or any of the commonalty or of any of them, or of any one, either dead or removed, to nominate and elect into their office and place, to continue till the twenty-ninth day of September then next following, and from thence until he or another be newly

Persons seised of not less than fifty acres to elect Commonalty.

Governor, Deputy Governor, and Commonalty to be removed on just cause.

Vacancies on death or removal to be filled up.



elected; to be continued as aforesaid. Which persons so elected may and shall be respectively governor, deputy governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, in form aforesaid. And we do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, make, create, and appoint them governor, deputy governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and so as often as the case shall so happen.

Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty may make laws and ordinances for support of works, &c.

And moreover our will is, and by these presents we do grant, for ourselves, our heirs and successors, to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors, that it shall be lawful for the said governor, deputy governor, and bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, being convoked by the governor, or deputy governor, of the society aforesaid for the time being, or the major part of them which shall be then present, being not less than six in number, one of which to be the governor, or deputy governor, from time to time, for the good government, support, and public advantage of the society aforesaid, to make, ordain, establish and declare any statutes, laws, or ordinances, touching themselves and their works in the fens, and to apply to new mischiefs that may happen, if it be necessary, new remedies, and the same to execute. Provided always that the said statutes, laws, ordinances, and decrees, are not contrary to the statutes and laws of this our realm of England.

Governor to take an oath office.

And further our will is, and by these presents for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we ordain and appoint that the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, above in these presents named to be governor of the society aforesaid, and every other person from time to time to be elected into that office, before he be admitted to the exercise of the office of governor of the society aforesaid, or enter on the said office, shall take his corporal oath, on the Holy Evangelists, the said office well and faithfully in all things

touching the said office to execute, before the deputy governor, bailiffs, and society aforesaid, or any three or more of them, whereof the governor, or one of the bailiffs to be one; full power and authority to administer such oath, as aforesaid, to the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, or any other to be elected, from time to time, into that office, we, by these presents, do give and grant to the said deputy governor, bailiffs, and society, or any three or more of them.

Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, and Society to administer oath.

Our will moreover is, and by these presents for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we do ordain and appoint that the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Sir Thomas Tyringham, Knight, and Sir Miles Sandys, Knight, and any other that shall hereafter be elected into the office of deputy governor, or bailiffs of the said society, before they be admitted to exercise the office of deputy governor, or bailiffs, or enter on the said office, shall respectively take their corporal oath upon the Holy Evangelists, the said office well and faithfully in all things touching the said office to execute, before the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, or any two or more of them, to whom like power and authority to give and administer such oath as aforesaid, to the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Sir Thomas Tyringham, and Sir Miles Sandys, Knights, and every other person from time to time into those offices to be elected, we by these presents give, and this without any commission or farther warrant on this part from us, our heirs and successors, to be had and obtained; and that it shall be lawful for the governor and bailiffs of the society aforesaid, for the time being, to appoint a proper form of oath, to be taken by all the members of the said society, their officers and servants; and we give and grant like power to the said governor, deputy governor, and bailiffs, and their successors, for them, the said governor, deputy governor and bailiffs, to

Deputy Governor and Bailiffs to take an oath of office.

Governor and Bailiffs may appoint proper form of oath to be taken.

Conservacy of  
waters and  
banks in the  
fens given to  
the Corpora-  
tion.

administer to, and take from all the members of the said society, the oath in the form aforesaid, and this without any commission or farther warrant on this part from us, our heirs and successors, to be had and obtained.

And farther of our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, for ourselves, we have given and granted to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors, the conservacy of all waters and banks within the fens and marsh grounds aforesaid, as well those that now are as any that shall hereafter be; and for us, our heirs and successors, we will, and we grant to the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid and their successors, that they and their successors shall be for ever conservators of the waters and banks aforesaid; and we do, by these presents, make, ordain and constitute to them and their successors the power over the waters and banks aforesaid, by themselves or their servants to seize, take away and burn nets, wears, and all other engines, staunches, mills, and all other nuisances, in and upon the waters and banks aforesaid placed or hereafter to be placed, contrary to the laws and customs of this our realm of England, and all things to erect, make and execute, in and upon the said waters and banks, which any other conservators of any waters and banks may and do. And for ourselves, our heirs and successors, our will is, and by these presents we do further grant to the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty and their successors, and to every governor, deputy governor, and bailiffs of the society aforesaid, for the time being, That they, and two or more of them, may and for ever hereafter shall have a power of enquiring, by the oath of twelve honest and lawful men of those counties, and by such other means as are fitting, of all trespasses and offences against the form of the statute, or against the law and custom of this our realm of Eng-

Who may in-  
quire by juries  
of nuisances,  
&c. committed.

land, in and upon the waters and banks aforesaid done, committed or perpetrated, or hereafter to be done, committed or perpetrated, and all and singular the same of hearing and determining, and those who are convicted thereof of punishing by fines and amercements, and other penalties, according to the laws and customs of this our realm of England.

And hear and determine the same.  
And punish by fines and amercements.

Moreover we have granted to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs, and society, and their successors, all kinds of penalties, fines, amercements, goods and chattels, for any offences in and upon the waters and banks aforesaid, against the form of the statutes, or against the law and custom of this our realm of England, forfeited and adjudged, or that shall be hereafter forfeited and adjudged. And that they, and their successors, shall have the same of the trespassers and offenders in and upon the waters and banks aforesaid, and all others, in the hands of whomsoever they are found, or from whomsoever the same ought to be paid, and all the said fines and amercements, goods and chattels, by themselves and servants to seize, receive, and enjoy, to the use and behoof of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors, without any estreat thereof into the Exchequer of us, our heirs and successors, to be sent or returned, and without any impeachment of us, our heirs or successors, or of any of our officers or servants.

Said fines and amercements granted to the Corporation.

And for the advantage and ease of those who live in the parts aforesaid, and that others may be the better induced, from the neighbourhood of fairs and markets, to inhabit those parts, our will farther is, and by these presents for ourselves, our heirs and successors, we grant to the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Thorney, and his heirs and assigns, that they may have one market on the Thursday in every week within the said manor of Thorney, and also two fairs annually for

A weekly market, and two annual fairs, granted to the Earl of Bedford, Lord of the manor of Thorney, to be held at Thorney.



ever at Thorney aforesaid, one of them to begin on the first day of May, and through that day and the two days next the same day following annually, to continue and last; and the other of the said fairs there, on the first day of September to be begun, and through that whole day and two days the same day next following to be continued and last, together with a court of pie powder there at the time of the said market and fair to be held, together with reasonable toll, stallage, and picage for stalls, or saleable things in the said fair or market, to sale exposed. Together with all liberties and free customs, fines, amercements, and all other profits, commodities, and advantages whatsoever, to such kinds of markets and fairs, and court of pie powder belonging. Provided always that the said market or fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the damage of any other neighbouring markets or fairs.

Said market and fairs not to be to the prejudice of any neighbouring fair or market.

A weekly market, and two annual fairs granted to Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, to be held at Stretham.

And further of our more abundant grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, we will for ourselves, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we grant to the aforesaid Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Lord of the Manor of Stretham, his heirs and assigns, that they may have one market, to be held on the Thursday in every week, within the manor of Stretham in the Isle of Ely. And also two fairs annually for ever to be held at Stretham aforesaid, one on the Feast of St. Mark to begin, and through that whole day and the two days next following the said Feast annually to continue and last; the other of the said fairs there, on the Feast of St. Michael the Apostle to begin, and through that whole day and the two days the said Feast next following to continue and last; together with a court of pie powder there, at the time of the said market and fairs to be held, together with reasonable toll, stallage, and picage for stalls, or saleable things, in the fairs and markets aforesaid to sale exposed; together with all liber-

ties, free customes, fines, amercements, and all other profits, commodities, and advantages whatsoever, to such kind of markets and fairs, and court of pie powder belonging. Provided always that the said market or fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the damage of any other neighbouring markets or fairs.

Said market and fair not to be to the prejudice of any neighbouring fair or market.

Wherefore we will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we strictly charge and command that the aforesaid Earl of Bedford and Sir Miles Sandys, and their heirs and assigns respectively, have the aforesaid fairs and markets aforesaid, together with a court of pie powder there, at the time of the said market and fairs to be held, together with reasonable toll, stallage, and picage for the stalls, or for things saleable in the fairs and markets aforesaid exposed to sale, together with all liberties and free customs, fines, amercements and all other profits, commodities and advantages aforesaid, or in any kind to such markets and fairs belonging. Provided always that the said markets and fairs, or either of them, is not or are not to the damage of any other neighbouring markets or fairs; notwithstanding our writ of *ad Quod Damnum*, or any other writ from our Chancery hath not issued to enquire of the fairs and markets aforesaid, or any of them, before the making of these presents.

Said weekly markets and fairs granted to the Earl of Bedford, and Sir Miles Sandys, their heirs and assigns respectively, though no writ of *ad quod damnum* hath issued.

We will moreover, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we grant to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and their successors and every of them, as well those that now are as those that may be hereafter, licence and faculty within the level of the fens aforesaid, in any convenient places they shall choose, churches and chapels with chancels and belfries a-new to erect, build, and found; and to inclose certain pieces of land to the said churches and chapels adjoining, for the purposes of making church yards thereof; and the churches and chapels so built and

Power given to the Corporation to build churches and chapels, endow the same, and present thereto.



Power given to bishops and ordinaries to consecrate the said churches and chapels.

Rectors of said churches or chapels to be a body corporate and politic.

Corporation to endow said churches and chapels.

founded to furnish and adorn with a font and other things necessary for the administration of the sacrament, and other divine worship; and the said churches and church yards to cause, by the ordinary of the place where they are built, to be consecrated and dedicated according to the ecclesiastical laws of this our realm of England; and that the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid and their successors, and every of them, such churches and chapels so founding, after the foundation thereof, be for ever patrons of the churches and chapels aforesaid, and have the right of patronage of every of them, and of presenting to the same on every vacancy a fit person, by the ordinary of the place canonically to be admitted and instituted, and duly to be inducted, to be commanded. We will moreover and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant to all bishops, ordinaries and others, as well those who now are as those that may be so hereafter whom it may concern, that they and every of them the churches or chapels aforesaid when they are built and their church yards, may consecrate and dedicate to the Divine Honour; and that those churches and chapels, after they shall be so consecrated, may serve the inmates and inhabitants for the celebration of divine service, for the administering and receiving of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for the celebration of marriage, the baptizing of infants, the burying of the dead, and all other things which to churches and chapels and church yards do belong. And that the rectors of any one, or any of the said churches or chapels respectively, and separately be, and shall be, a body corporate and politic, having succession for ever; and that it may be lawful for them messuages, lands and tenements, glebes and other hereditaments in fee simple, in right of his church or those churches or chapels, to acquire and possess. And that the said rectors may be provided with a competent support respectively, we give

moreover by these presents to the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the society aforesaid and every of them, as well those that now are as those that may be hereafter, a licence and faculty any lands within the level of the fens aforesaid, or others, with the payment of tithes, fruits and other things there growing, as to them shall seem best, for the said rectors to charge; and every church or chapel aforesaid, and the rectors of the same, and their successors, with tithes as well great as small, real, personal and mixt, from the lands aforesaid growing and renewing to endow, and as well such churches or chapels with tithes, offerings and profits to those churches belonging as with houses, lands and tenements for them proper to endow, and all those things to the rector of any such church or chapel for the time being and his successors in fee to be possessed for ever, to give and grant; and to every such rector and his successors respectively all those things to require and hold, by these presents we likewise give and grant a licence, notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain; saving always to every rector or vicar of every mother church in whose parish churches or chapels shall be founded a-new, all his just rights.

Notwithstanding Statute of Mortmain.

Saving to rector and vicar of every mother church.

And because the building and constant preservation of bridges made, and the preservation of many sluices, rivers and other places hereafter to be built, erected and made to bring the waters within their banks for the advantage and utility of the public, would require great sums of money, we will and grant to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid and their successors by these presents, that it shall and may be lawful for them to take, have and receive to themselves and their successors, the reasonable toll following. For all horses and carts to pass over the bridges newly erected, or by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid and their successors to be erected, to wit, for every loaded cart four

Corporation empowered for maintenance of works to take tolls.

Tolls specified.

pence, if it is not loaded two pence, for every horse or mare loaded two pence, and if they are not loaded one penny; for twenty sheep, calves or hogs two pence, and so in proportion for every twenty oxen or cows four pence, and so in proportion. And for every boat passing and navigating under such bridge as abovesaid, through the drains or places aforesaid made a-new and maintained by the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and communalty of the society aforesaid, not exceeding four ton, four pence, and for every larger boat eight pence; for every boat passing through the sluices a-new made and maintained as aforesaid, under four ton, four pence, and for every larger boat eight pence, and for every person in such boat passing such sluice as aforesaid one halfpenny.

Deeds to be enrolled or registered within three months after the date.

And that the owners of all or any of the lands aforesaid may be the better known, and on any reasonable cause respecting the public good of the said society, may be taxed and assessed to contribute to the support of the great burthen and expence thereof, we will that all deeds and evidence by which any part of the said land shall by any means be conveyed and assuved from one to another, shall by the purchasers or their agents be enrolled before the governor, bailiffs and society aforesaid, in a book for that purpose to be publickly kept, within three months next after the date of the said deeds or evidence, for a reasonable sum to be paid the clerk or other officer for his trouble therein had. And we will that if any owner or occupier there shall not within the space of three months as aforesaid enrol or cause to be enrolled his deeds and evidence to be made of any part of the premises, that in such case he shall by no means have and enjoy the franchises, liberties, immunities and privileges aforesaid in these presents contained.

On failure therein, party neglecting to forfeit franchises and liberties in these presents contained.

No owners of Fen lands to be put on civil offices out of

And whereas it is very plain and manifest that so arduous a work cannot be performed without much labour and pains, and that it will be but of little avail unless it

be preserved by constant attention, labour, expence and good council, that therefore the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and all the occupiers aforesaid, may be more attentive thereto and assisting therein, and may remain and continue happily and peaceably in their own houses, places and possessions when they retire thither after such great charge and labour, for refreshment and comfort, without any fear of disquiet, trouble or grievance; of our more abundant special grace we have granted for ourselves, our heirs and successors, to the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, and every of them, and their successors, and we will that none of them be put without the liberties of the precincts of the fens aforesaid on assizes, juries, attainments, recognizances or any inquisitions, although they affect us, our heirs or successors, or any others, and that none of them be without the fens aforesaid collectors of tenths, fifteenths, taxes, tallages, or any other charges, quotas, or impositions of any kind, by any means hereafter to be granted and given to us, our heirs or successors, and that none of them be or is constable, receiver, bailiff, or other officer of us, our heirs or successors, without the aforesaid liberties against their wills.

the precincts of the Fens.

Our will moreover is, and by these presents we grant to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the society aforesaid, that they may have and shall have these letters patents under our great seal of England duly made and sealed, without fine or fee great or small to us in our hanaper, or elsewhere, to our use in any manner to be returned, paid or made.

These letters patents to pass without any fee to be paid.

Because there is not in these presents any express mention made of the true yearly value, or of the certainty of the premises or of any of them, or of any other gifts or grants from us or from any of our progenitors or predecessors to the aforesaid governor, bailiffs, and common-

Because the certainty of the premises granted doth not appear.

alty of the society aforesaid, any statute, act, ordinance, provision or proclamation to the contrary heretofore had, made, published, ordained or provided, or any other thing, cause or matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourselves at Westminster, the thirteenth day of March, in the tenth year of our reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,

WOLSELEY.



## No. XV.

HAYWARD'S  
ORIGINAL SURVEY OF THE FENS. 1636.

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*Copy of Mr. Hayward's General Survey of the Level,  
taken A. D. 1635-6.*

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THE CONTENTS of the Fennes by Statute  
Measure both of Commons and Severalls. Be-  
ginning on Norfolk side, on the east of the River Noar.  
Ouze.

Denver towne, a mowfen, over against	Denver.
Salters Lode: by the river Owse west;	
Downham Comon north; and the high	
ground east. This is imbanked ground	- 292 0 0
The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning	
more east, by Foreham ground south; the	
high ground east; and the river west. This	
is also imbanked ground	- 190 2 0
The same towne, a comon ffen on the	
other side of the river, wherein Helgay doth	
intercomon. It lieth betwene the river east;	
the Londiners ffennes in part west; the New	
Podick north; and Maid Lode south	- 1112 0 0
It is devided into two parts by the New	



River, whereof the north part contains 482 acres, the south parte 630 acres, &c.

A severall adioyning more west (late Mr. Moares of London), called Mathers Balde : by the Londiners ffennes west and south, and the Podick north

16 0 0

Fordham.

Edward Skipwith, Esq. a severall imbanked ground on the other side of the river, being part of his manor of Fordham : by the river Owse west ; and the river Wissay, called also Stoke River, and another sewer south

236 0 0

Idem, other imbanked grounds of the same manor adioyning, more south and east : by the said river Wissay on the south and west ; and the high way at Holgae Bridge east

340 0 0

Roxham.

Roxham towne, a comon ffenn more east : betwene Mr. Skepwith's grounds west ; Roxham Lode east ; and the said river Wissay south

104 1 0

The same towne, another comon ffenn more east : by Dearham grounds east ; Roxham Lode west ; and the said river south

179 0 0

Dearham,  
otherwise  
Wearham.

Dearham, a comon ffenn adioyning, more east : by Dearham Lode east ; butting south upon the said river

309 0 0

The same towne another comon ffenn adioyning more east (wherein Wearham doth intercommon). It butteth south upon the said river ; north upon the Abby of Dearham. Sir Thomas Dearham hath a farm and some severall grounds at the south west corner of this ffenn, to be deducted

570 0 0

Wretton and  
Stoke.

Wretton and Stoke have a comon ffenn adioyning, more east : by the said river south ; and the high grounds north and east

828 1 0

The same townes have another comon  
ffen adioyning more east : by the said river  
south and east - - - 524 0 0

The same townes, another comon ffen  
adioyning at the north east corner of- the  
former : by the river east ; and the Calcye  
leading from Stoke to Stockbridge north - 106 0 0

Norwald.

Norwald, a comon ffenn more east : be-  
twene the river west ; Meathold Load south ;  
Stoke Calcy and the feild north - - 1100 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen  
more east : betwene the said Lode south ;  
the high ground north ; and the road-way  
from Stoke to Brandon on the east - 127 0 0

Meathold.

Meathold, a litle parcell of comon ffen  
there, more south : by the saide Lode north ;  
and the said road-way east - - 3 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon  
ffen adioyning, more west : by the said Lode  
north ; and another sewer west - - 48 2 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon  
adioyning, more west : by the sewer north  
and east ; and a comon way west - 12 0 0

The same towne, a litle parcell of co-  
mon adioyning, more west : by the said way  
east ; and the Fendike north and west - 3 3 0

The same towne, another parcell of co-  
mon adioyning, more south : by the said  
Fendike west - - - 4 1 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyn-  
ing, more west : by the twoe former parcells  
east ; the way by Thornham Close and the  
Lode north ; the high ground, Slissham Calcy  
and Close, and an old Lode, called King's  
Lode, south ; butting west upon a banke  
neare Stoke River - - - 409 0 0

The same towne, another small ffen being their mowfen, at the south-west corner of the former: by a bank neare the river and Broadfen Lode, on the north and west; and Broadfen on the south and east - 64 3 0

The same towne, a large comon ffen adioyning, more south, called Broad Fen: by Broad Fen Lode on the west; Short Lode south; and the high grounds east - 2075 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more south, called Twene Lodes: by Short Lode north; and another Lode deviding it from Feltwell grounds south, and Southmore west - 425 2 0

The same towne, a litle triangle peece at the south-west corner, being parcell of the former, and cut of by the New River. It lieth by North Fen in Feltwell south; and by Southmore west - 10 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more west called Southmore: betwene Feltwell grounds south; the Kings severalls in Meathold north; and Stacklode west. It is devided by the New River into two parts; whereof the lesse part on the north side containeth - 401 2 0

The other part on the south side containeth 1505 0 0

The Kings Majesty in right of his Dutchie of Lancaster (wherof Meathold is a parte) hath in a great severall ffen adioyning more north; by Broad fen Load east; Stoke river north; and the Halffendike west - 1580 0 0

The King hath another severall ffen adioyning more west, by the Twelve Foot Draine west; Stoke River north; Southmore, and the Newe River south - 989 0 0

A part of this severall is cutt of (at the south-west corner) by the New River; lying on the other side of the river next Southmore 21 0 0

The King hath also another severall fen adioyning more west: by the Kings Dike west; Stoke River north; and the New River south - - - 748 1 0

A part of this is also cut of by the New River at the south end; lying there by Southmore south; and the Kings Ditch west - - - 93 2 0

Southery towne, a parcell of comon fen adioyning more west, by the New River north; and the feild ground west, and in part south - - - 66 2 0 Southery.

The same towne, another parcell of comon fen adioyning more west, betwene the New River north; and the feild south - 129 3 0

Sir Henry Willughby certen severalls more north: betwene the New River south, and Helgay Feild in part north; with a bank near Kings Ditch east - 102 0 0

The towne, a comon fen adioyning more north: betwene Helgae high grounds west; and a bank neare Kings Ditch east; butting north upon Wissy, alias Stoke River - 209 3 0 Helgay.

The same towne, a narrow spring more east: betwene the former bank west; and the Kings Ditch east, butting north upon the former rivers; south upon the new cutt - 9 0 0

Sir Henry Willughby, certen wett grounds (being meadowe) at the west end of the fferme, called Modnea: by West Fen in Helgae north; and the banks of the river Owse west - - - 40 0 0

Idem, six severall inclosures adioyning,

more south; all abutting upon the river bank as the former. Whereof the first contains

-	-	-	-	23	2	20
The second	-	-	-	14	3	0
The third	-	-	-	15	0	0
The fourth	-	-	-	15	3	0
The fift	-	-	-	19	0	0
The sixte	-	-	-	25	0	0

The towne of Sootheren a comon fen adioyning more east: by the river of Owse south; and the Ferry Dike and Bank east - 176 0 0

The same towne, a long narow parcell of comon: betwene the former comon fen and closes south; and the feild ground north; extending in length from the townes-end to Modnea Hedge - 75 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon more east, beyond the church: betwene the feild north, and Southmore south; butting east upon another pece of comon neare King's Ditch, formerlye set downe - 14 3 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon more to the south-west: by the yards of the dwelling-houses on the north; and Southmoare east - 12 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon adioyning more south: by Stacklode east; and the Ferrydike west - 29 3 0

The same towne, a comon fen adioyning more south: by the Ferrydike and river west; and Sir Henry Willughbie's ground south - 121 0 0

The same towne, another comon fenn adioyning more east: by Stacklode north, and diverse severalls south and east - 565 0 0

Sir Henry Willughby, a severall with a

tenement upon it more south and west: by  
 he two former peeces north and in parte  
 east; and the great river west - 106 0 0

Mr. William Gibbon, a severall with a  
 tenement adioyning more south; by Bran-  
 don River west - 69 0 0

Sootheres towne, a comon ffen on the  
 west side of the river Owse, at Preisthowses;  
 with a ffen called Adymore, lying betwene  
 the river Owse on the east; Sir Miles  
 Sandys, his imbanked ground in part north,  
 and Creeklode on the north-east - 1451 0 0

Helgae towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
 more north; betwene Creeklode south; and  
 a new draine north; the river Owse east;  
 and the severalls called Kings Fenus west 1315 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
 more north; by Mr. Skipwith's imbanked  
 ground north; and the river Owse east - 1612 0 0

Mr. Skipwith certen imbanked grounds ad-  
 ioyning more north, with a tenement upon it;  
 by Maidlode north, and the river Owse east 710 0 0

Sir Henry Willughby certen severalls  
 called Kings Fen, and the Roads: at the  
 west ends of the three former, by Littleport  
 and Welends grounds west; New Ditch  
 south; and Maidlode north - 1340 0 0

Helgae towne, a comon ffenn on the east  
 side of the river of Owse: by the said river  
 west; Wissy River north; and West Fenne  
 south - 153 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
 ioyning more east; and bounded north and  
 south as the former - 122 1 0

The same towne, a common adioyning  
 more south called West Fen; by the river



Owse west; and the high ground east and south. It is devided by the New River into two parts, whereof the north parte containeth 336 0

The south part containeth - - 228 0 0

The same towne, a narrowe comon on the east of Helgae Bridge, betwene the severall and high ground south; and Wissy River north; butting east upon Soothery Comon 82 0 0

Part of the severall there inclosed more south, toward the bridge; by the former ground, east, north, and west - - 2 3 20

Sir Henry Willughby, part of a severall inclosed at the south side of Helgae Feild; betwene the high ground of Helgae east, north, and west; and the low ground of Soothery south - - 7 1 0

Feltwell.

Sir Thomas Woodhowse, more south, a severall in Feltwell called the Farding; by Soothery Comon on the north; and the grounds of Sir Henry Willughby, and Mr. William Guybon on the west - - 228 0 0

Sir Edmund Mowndford, a severall adioyning more east; by the said Comon of Soothery and Stacklode north, and in part west - - 216 0 0

Mr. Ward for himself and Christ College, in Cambridge (whose fermer he is) certen severalls adioyning more south: by Brandon River west; butting east upon Stacklode 1264 0 0

Sir Edmund Moundford, a severall adioyning more south: butting east as the former; west upon Mr. Terrel's ground by Brandon River - - 574 0 0

Sir Thomas Woodhowse, a severall adioyning, more south: by the comon called South Fen on the south; butting east as the

former; west upon John Hayward's ground  
and Brandon River - - - 596 0 0

Feltwell towne, a comon ffen called  
South Fen, adioyning, more south and east;  
by Feltwell Mowfen and Hockold Comon  
Fen south; and Stacklode north - - - 2318 0 0

The same towne, a mowfen adioyning  
more south; by Brandon River and John  
Purselie's ground south; and Mr. Hining-  
ham's ground and Hockold Common east - 299 0 0

John Parsley, a severall, by the former  
ffen north and west; and Brandon River  
south - - - - 22 0 0

John Hayward, a severall more west: by  
Brandon river south; and Sir Thomas Wood-  
howse's ground north and east - - - 41 0 0

Mr. Tirrell, a severall adioyning more  
west: by the said river south - - - 36 0 0

Idem, another severall with a tenement  
upon it more west: by the former east; the  
river south; and Sir Edmond Moundford's  
ground north - - - - 13 2 0

Feltwell towne, a comon ffen more north,  
called Northfen: betwene Staklode on the  
south and east; Meatholde Southmore in  
parte; and the New River in parte north - 1681 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more east:  
It was a parte of the former Northffen, and  
devided from it by the New River. It lieth  
by Meathold Comon, called Twene Lodes,  
on the north; and the high ground east - 852 0 0

Mr. Ward, a litle severall adioyning  
more east: by the former Comon on the  
south, west, and north - - - 15 0 0

Idem, the west part of another severall  
adioyning more east, by Staklode south - 7 0 0

Hockolde  
and Wilton.

Hockold towne, a comon fien more south; by Seaffe and Horsy Fen east; Lakingale and the Brewhowse ground south; and Feltwell Fen on the north - 1160 0 0

Mr. Hiningham, a severall adioyning more west, called Poolings, with a tenement upon it, called the Brewhouse; by Feltwell Mowfen west; and Brandon River south - 243 1 20

Idem, a severall on the other side of the river: by the said river north; Hallode, and Delfdike in part east - 391 0 0

Idem, another severall adioyning more south; by Delfdike south and east; and Hallode west - 50 1 0

Idem, a severall more north on the other side of the river, called Scalds; by the Comon Fen east; the former ground, called Poolings, west, and the river south - 191 3 0

Mr. Pratt, a severall inclosed woodground more east: betwene the Comon Fen north and west; and the Mowfen called Seaffen on the south-east - 48 1 0

The same townes of Hockold and Wilton, a mowfen called Seaffen adioyning more east: by Lamb Lode east; and the river south - 537 1 0

The same, a comon fien adioyning more north, called Horsyffen: by another comon fien west: and the high ground north - 301 0 0

The same, another fien adioyning more east, called also Horsyffen: by the high ground north and east - 95 2 0

The same townes, a comon fien called Cowles adioyning more south: by the river south; Lamb Lode west; and Hockold Lode east - 594 3 0

Wilton and Hockold, a comon ffen adioyn-  
ing more east: by the river south; and  
Wilton Lode east - - - 225 1 0.

Wilton, a comon ffen adioynning more east,  
twene the river south: and the high ground  
north - - - 220 0 0

Another comon ffen adioynning more east:  
betwene the river south; and the high  
ground north - - - 144 2 0

Brandon towne, a ffen adioynning more  
east, extending east neare to the bridge: by  
the said river south, and the high ground  
north and east - - - 73 3 0.

SUFFOLK.  
Brandon.

The same towne, a parcell of comon more  
west on the other side of the river: betwene  
the river north; and the high ground south 14 0 0

The same towne, another litle parcell of  
comon at the west end of the former: bound-  
ed north and south as the former - - - 28 2 0

The same towne, another narrow peece of  
comon at the west end of the former: ex-  
tending west to the Ferry-house; and bound-  
ed north and south as the former - - - 38 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioynning,  
more west: by a sewer above Manning's  
Cot on the west; and bounded north and  
south as the former - - - 224 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioynning more west: by Lakingale Mowffen  
west; and the river north; with a tenement  
upon it neare to the west end, and called  
Whitehouse - - - 162 3 0

The same towne, another comon ffen at  
the south-west corner of the former: by the  
said mowffen north; and other ffennes of  
Lakingale west and south - - - 190 0 0.

The same towne, another comon ffenn more east: by the twoe former north and west; and Lakingale ffen south - - 351 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more east: by Lakingale and Wainford grounds south; and the high grounds north and east - - 236 0 0

Wainford. Wainford towne, certen severalls adioyning, more south: by Lakingale ffen west; and the high grounds south and east - 288 2 0

Lakingale. Lakingale towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more west: by Brandon ffennes north; and the high grounds south - 677 3 0

The same towne, a narrow comon adioyning more west, called the Bankes: by the ffen called Stallard on the west. It serveth as a way to the mowfen - 33 2 0

The same towne, a long ffen (being their mowfen) at the north end of the former; by Brandon grounds east; the river of Brandon north; and Stallard south. This was taken out of Stallard - 382 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen at the west end of the former, betwene Stallard south and the river north. There is a cotage upon it at the north-east, called Dewes Cot - 88 2 0

Mr. Steward, a severall at the west end of the former: by the river north; Stallard south, and Croswater west - 13 2 0

Idem, a severall more north beyond the river: by the said river south and west; and the comon north and east - 25 0 0

Lakingale towne, a parcell of comon adioyning more north: by the grounds of Hock-old and Wilton north and west, and the river Este - 58 2 0

The same towne, a large comon called Stallard, more to the south-east: betwene the mowfen north; the narrow comon called the Banks east; and Croswater alias High Lode south - - - 1274 0 0

A severall there more south: by the former ground east, north and west; and Croswater in part south - - - 16 3 0

Another litle triangled severall adioyning more south: by Croswater south, and Stallard east - - - 7 3 0

Another litle severall more south: by Croswater north, and Winterlode west - 7 3 0

The Towne, a peece of comon ffen adioyning more south: by Winterlode west; and Milmarsh Lode on the south-east - 47 3 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon ffen more east: by Croswater north; Milmarsh Lode west; and Willow Lode in parte south - - - 97 3 0

A litle triangled severall more south: by the former ground north; other comon ground south; and Willow Lode west - - - 1 0 0

Another severall inclosed more north: compassed about with the former comon on every side - - - 8 0 0

Another long severall there more north: by the former comon south, west, and north; and another severall east - - - 17 0 0

Another severall adioyning more east: by a comon ffen south and east; and Croswater north - - - 33 0 0

Another severall more to the south-west: by the comon ffen on every side - - - 11 1 0

The towne of Lakingale, a comon ffen adioyning: by the two former severalls in



	part north; Vuly Caloye south; and Willowlode west	-	-	-	304	2	0
Undley.	The same towne, another comon ffen adioyning, more south: by the said Caloy north; and Willowlode on the south-west						
					405	0	0
	Sir Thomas Jermie's ferme, called Vuly, hath certen severalls more west: by Willowlode and Vuly high grounds east; the intercom' of Lakingale and Milnoll south; and the fennes called Sedgeffen and Townmore north and west						
					492	0	0
	The towne, a comon ffen adioyning more north, called Sedgeffen: by Willowlode-popolode on the east and north-west						
					88	0	0
	The same towne, another comon ffen more west, called Townmore: by Vuly severalls east; Popelode north; and Reachlode south and west						
					579	0	0
	The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more north: by Plantlode in part north; and Popelode south and in part east and west						
					851	0	0
	A severall more to the north-east: by the former comon south and west; Winterlode east; and Highlode north						
					63	0	0
	The same towne, a comon ffen more west, called Arkinstall: betwene the last former comon south and east; Reachlode west; and Plantlode north						
					174	3	0
	The same towne, a little parcell of comon more west, called Fardinghill, neare Ballards Stake: by Reachlode east; and Milnoll Sedgeffen south and west, and in part north						
					14	0	0
Common, 10 0 0	A little severall more north: by Plantlode south; the Botesgangs north and east; and Delfdike west						
					8	2	0

Mr. Steward, a severall adioyning, more north and east, called Botesgangs : by Plantlode south ; and Avdrylode alias Delfdike north and west - - - 269 0 0

The same towne of Lakingale, a parcell of comon ffenn adioyning more east : by another parcell of comon and a severall of John Crane's east ; and Plantlode south - 116 2 0

The same towne, another parcell of comon ffenn adioyning more east : by Plantlode south ; Crosswater east ; certen severalls and Crosswater in part north - - - 131 1 0

John Crane, a severall by the former comon south ; and Crosswater on the north-east - 35 0 0

Mr. William Barne, a severall adioyning more west : by the comon south and west ; and Crosswater north - - - 43 2 0

John Crane, a severall more west : by the commons east, south, and west ; and Crosswater north - - - 26 3 0

A severall more west, at the meeting of Avdrithlode and the river : by the said Lode on the south-east ; and the river on the north-east - - - 35 1 0

Another severall adioyning more west : by the comon ffenn on the north and west, and in part south - - - 15 0 0

The same towne of Lakingale, a parcell of comon ffenn adioyning more west : by Delfdike west ; Brandon River north ; and Avdrylode south - - - 47 0 0

The west ends of three small severalls, southward from Lakingale Church ; betwene the ffenn west and the high ground east - 2 2 0

Lakingale towne, a small parcell of comon adioyning more south : betwene the high

ground and the ffen west; with a gory point  
at the south end - - - 8 3 0

The same towne, another small parcell of  
comon adioyning more south, by Eswell  
ground south: and bounded east and west  
as the former; with a gory point at the  
north end - - - 6 2 0

Eswell. Eswell, a comon turffen at Eswell mill:  
by the millstreame south, and Lakingale  
Fen north; butting west with a narrowe  
point upon Pevens Lode - - 29 1 0

Comon. A severall there more east: by the former  
parte west; and the millbank south - 6 3 0

The same towne of Eswell, a comon ffen  
there more south: by the milstreame north;  
Pevens Lode west; the high ground east, and  
the severalls south - - - 134 0 0

Certen wet ground within the severalls  
adioyning more south: by the high ground  
east and south; and Pevens Lode west - 12 0 0

The same towne of Eswell, a parcell of  
comon more south, at the townes end: be-  
twene the high ground north and east; and  
Pevens Lode on the south-west - 50 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon ffen,  
on the other side of the Lode: by the Lode  
north and east; and the high ground south  
and west - - - 8 0 0

The same towne, another peece of comon  
ffen more to the north-west, at the Fatbridge:  
by the said Pevens Lode east; and the high  
ground south, west, and north - 68 2 0

The same towne, another small pece of  
comon adioyning more north, with a fence  
at the north end: by the said Lode east; the  
high ground north and west. It is parted from

the former with a narrow pece of ground as  
a way - - - - 5 2 0

The towne of Millnoll, a comon ffen there  
adioyning, by Hignole Hards and Willow  
Lode north; Pevens Lode east; and the  
high grounds south - - - 800 0 0

Millnoll,  
otherwise  
Middenhall.

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning more west: by Stacklode on the  
south-west; Baldnis Lode north; and the  
high grounds on the south-east - - 1018 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning, more west: by Potters Lode north;  
Stacklode on the north-east; and the high  
ground on the south-east - - 2055 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning, more south: by Milenoll River  
west and south; and the high ground east - 1220 0 0

The same towne, a mowffen adioyning,  
more north: by the two former south and  
east; and the river west - - 512 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning,  
more north: by Potters Lode north; and the  
river west - - - - 553 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning,  
more north, called Burndffen: by the river  
west; Ely Great Shell north; and Beggers  
Lode east - - - - 1737 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffenn adioyn-  
ing more east, called Sedgeffen: by the fen  
called Litle Shell north; and Reachlode  
east - - - - 586 0 0

The same towne, an intercomon with  
Lakingale, at the south end of the former:  
betwene Townmore east, and Burndffen west 254 0 0

The same towne, another intercomon with  
Lakingale at the south-east corner of the

	former: by Baldins Drove south, and Vuly severalls north and north-west	-	-	378	0	0
CAMBRIDGE.	Jselham towne more south, a small ffen called Frecknams: by Millnoll River north; and a Lode or Sewer west, and the high ground south-east	-	-	37	0	0
Iselham.	The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more west, called East Fen: betwene Milnoll River north, and the high ground south. It hath a tenement upon it called the Churchhowse	-	-	173	0	0
	The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more west: by West Fen west; the high grounds south; and the river north-east	-	-	912	0	0
	The same towne, a long comon adioyning more west, called West Fen: by the high grounds south, and Soame Fennes west, and in part north	-	-	1045	0	0
	The same towne, another comon ffen more north: betwene the two former on the south, and in part west; and the river east	-	-	650	0	0
	The same towne, another comon ffen adioyning more west: by the former ffen and the river east, and West Fen south; and Soame Fennes, called Great and Little Metland, on the west and north	-	-	308	1	0
Soame.	Soame towne, a comon ffen called Litle Metland adioyning more south: by Great Metland West; and the ffen called the Borders south	-	-	370	0	0
	The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more south, called the Hasse: betwene Jselham Westfen east; and the Borders west	-	-	587	0	0
	The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more south, called East Fen: by Jselham West Fen east	-	-	479	0	0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more south, called Soame Moare: by Milstreame north; and the high ground south and east - - - 181 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more east, called Fordham Moare: by the said Milstreame west and south; and the high ground east - - - 418 0 0

A severall parcell of meadow ground more west: betwene East Fen east; and Quaffen alias Calffen west; butting north upon the said Quaffen - - - 28 3 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more west and north, called Quaffen alias Calffen: by the Borders south; and the Hasse east - - - 198 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning more north, called the Borders, compassing in with diverse corners the high grounds of Soame on the south: and lying by Stoklode and the grounds of Stuntnea and Nornea on the west; Great and Litle Motland on the north; and the Hasse on the east, with 400 hard ground - - - 1800 0 0

The same towne, a pece of comon in Great Motlam adioyning more north: by Litle Motlam and Soam grounds east; and Milnoll River north - - - 840 0 0

Sir Robert Heath hath in severalty the residue (being the west part) of Great Metland: betwene the former part east; and Ely ffennes north and west - - - 1500 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more south, beyond the church, called Horscroft: by Soame ffeilds east; the Moare and Mear



grounds north and west; and Wickin  
grounds south - - - 470 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more west,  
called Sea Lodefen: by Wickin ground  
south and west; the Meare east; and Sea-  
lode in parte north - - - 135 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more north, called Sedgeffen: by Sealode  
north; butting east upon the Mear grounds 129 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more north, called Barwayffen: by the for-  
mer ffen and Sealode south; Barway sever-  
alls west; Great Caffen and Hennehill  
north - - - 343 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more west,  
called Fforden: by Sealode in part north;  
and Wickin grounds east, south and west - 156 2 0

A severall there more west, called Bug-  
bech; by the Middle north; and Thetford  
ground south and east - - - 7 0 0

Mere, a comon within Wicken, which  
lyes in Soame, which is to be added to  
Soame - - - 85 1 0

The same towne, a pece of comon there  
adioyning more west, called Lugffen: by the  
river at Harrim west; and Thetford grounds  
south - - - 13 3 0

The same towne, a comon ffenn adioyning  
more north, called the Middle: by the river  
west; and Sea Lod on the north-east - 81 1 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more east,  
called Litle Fen: by Barway severall north,  
east and south - - - 17 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning,  
more west, called Litle Caffen: by the river  
of Owse west; and Sea Lode south - 71 0 0

Sir Robert Heath, a severall fenne ad-  
ioyning, more north, called Great Caffen :  
by the river of Owse west ; and Stoklode  
north. The New River crosseth over it, at  
the west end whereof 300 hard ground - 500 0 0

Mr. William Guybbon, two tenements  
and certen grounds at Priesthowses : be-  
twene Whelpmore on the south-west, and  
Brandon River on the north-east ; extending  
west to the river Owse at Priesthowses - 312 0 0

Idem, a tenement and grounds adioyning,  
more east, called Warners : betwene Brandon  
River north ; and Whelpmore south - 440 0 0

A tenement and grounds adioyning, more  
east, called Redmore : by Hallode east ; and  
the river north ; and Whelpmore south, and  
in part west - 504 0 0

Littleport towne, a great comon adioyning,  
more south, called Whelpmore (wherein Elie  
and Downham do intercomon). It lieth be-  
twene the three former grounds north ; Hal-  
lode and Delfdike east ; Spamdelf Shepey  
and Burndffen south ; and the river Owse  
west - 5010 0 0

Littleport.

The same towne (with the same inter-  
comoning townes), another comon ffe ad-  
ioyning, more south, called Burndffen : by  
Shepey and Shepey Lode east ; and the river  
Owse west, and in part south. It is devided  
into two parts by a new cut from Milnoll  
River, whereof the south part contains - 422 0 0

The north part contains - 1840 0 0

The same towne (with the same inter-  
comones), a fen there more west, called  
Padnoll : by the river of Owse east ; and  
Ely Mowffen south - 746 0 0

The same towne (with the same inter-comoners), a comon ffen adioyning, more north and west: by Littleport River and the river of Owse at the Chaire on the north; the said river of Owse, the former ffen and Elie Mowffen on the east; the Broades in the river of Owse neare Elie south; and the high grounds west. The New Cut crosseth over the north end of this ffen neare to the Chaire - - - - 1110 0

The same towne (with the same inter-comoners), a comon ffen adioyning, more west: by Downham Parke and Salestree Lode west; Hirkham Closes south; Littleport Feild east; and Blacklode north - - - 1010 0

Littleport towne, a comon ffen adioyning, more north, called Blacklode; by Camollode north; and the river to Welley south - - 116 2

The same towne, a ffen adioyning, more north, called Camoll: by Wellnea River on the east and north - - - - 366 1

The same towne, a litle comon ffen adioyning, called Cambridge Croft: by the former south and east; and the river north - 36 2

The same towne, a mowffen adioyning, more west: by the twoe former east; and Westmore north and west. This is called Marffen - - - - 442 0

A messuage and certen severall grounds there more north, called Apeshall: by Westmore on the west and in part north; Welnea River east; and certen other severalls south - - - - 170 2

Other severalls there adioyning: by the former grounds of Apeshall east, west and north; and the river south - - - 18 0



Other severalls there more north: by the former grounds of Apeshall south; the river north and east; and other severall of Apeshall west - 88 3 0

Other severalls of Apeshall adioyning more west: by the river north; and Westmore south and west - 50 1 0

A severall more to the north-west, being parcell of the ground called the Hundred Acres: by the residue of the said ground north; the river east; and Westmore south and west - 66 1 0

Another severall adioyning, being the residue of the said 100 acres: by the former south; the river east; and Westmore south and west - 56 3 0

A great comon ffen there adioyning, called Westmore, wherein divers townes do intercomon. It lieth betwene Welnea River and Littleport grounds on the east; Salestre Lode and Downham Parke ffrith, and Coveny Lode on the south; by Willow Lode west; and the Newe River on the north part - 8454 0 0

Westmore.

The other part of this fenn is set down in foll. [166.]

The towne of Littleport, a comon ffen more east, called, at the south end, Church Fen, and at the north end, Wood Fen: lying betwene Welnea River south; the same river, and diverse severalls west; New Ditch north, and Sir Miles Sandys his imbanked grounds with willow rowes east - 1481 0 0

Certen severalls there adioyning: betwene Welnea River west; New Ditch north; and the former comon east and south - 304 0 0

Certen other severalls more to the north-west: betwene New Ditch and Welnea River on the south and west; and the common

ffen, called the Hale, in part on the east and north - 247 0 0

The same towne of Littleport, a comon ffen adioyning more east, called the Hale: betwene the severalles and New Ditch on the south and west; Welnea groundes north; and Sir Henry Willughbees grounds east - 1040 0 0

A severall in Littleport called Crouchmeare: by the former comon called the Hale north and west; New Ditch south; and Sir Henry Willughbees grounds east - 180 0 0

Sir Miles Sandys, a large ffen imbanked with a tenement upon it neare Preists Houses: by the comon ffen on the south and west; Adimore north; and the banke of the river of Owse east. It is planted with a double row of willowes on the east side, the south end, and half of the west side - 1350 0 0

A tenement and severall ground at the north-east corner of the former: by the former ground on the south-west; the river bank on the south-east; and the ffen called Adimore north - 80 0 0

Well and Well-  
nea.

Well and Wellnea, certen grounds betwene the Hale in Littleport south: the New River north; Welnea River west; and Sir Henry Willughbees ground east. Herein is both comon and severall - 1488 3 0

Sir Robert Bell, a parcell of the ffen called the Londiners Fenn, adioyning, more north: by Maidlode south; Denverffen east; and the New River on the north-west - 342 3 0

Wellnea, certen tenements and ffen grounds more west: betwene Wellnea River west; Shiplode north; and the New River on the south-east - 345 0 0

Sir Robert Bell, a severall ffen called Wickffen, Cadiffen and Neatmore (now called the Londiners Fenn), adioyning, more north: betwene Shiplode and the New River south; Denver Fennes east; London Lode and the comon ffen called Neatmore north; and the Calcy Dike and some severall crofts in Wellnea west - 2802 3 0

The towne of Upwell, a comon ffen adioyning more west, called Neatmore: betwene the foresaid ffenn called the Londiners Fen on the south and east; the Calcy Dike west; and London Lode north 1490 0 0

Four severall tenements and crofts more south: towards Wellnea by the river and Calcy Dike west; Shiplode south; and the Londiners Fennes on the north-east - 20 0 0

Certen other grounds there adioyning more west and north: betwene Wellnea River south, west and north; and the Calcy Dike up to London Lode on the east 638 0 0

Another severall there more north: by the former south; the river west; and the Calcy Dike east - 97 0 0

Another severall adioyning more north; by the river west; the Calcy Dike east; and Bar Dike at Poppham Lode north - 47 0 0

The towne of Upwell, a comon ffen adioyning more east, called also Neatmore: betwene New Dike north; and London Lode south; extending east with a gory point to the New Podic - 961 0 0

The towne of Outwell, a small comon adioyning more north, betwene Smallode south; New Dike north; the New Podick east;



and extending west with a gory point to  
Croswater - 32 0 0

The same towne, a fenn adioyning more  
north, called Walsingham Fenn : betwene  
Smallode south ; the Newe Podick north ;  
and Church Feild Bank west - 615 0 0

The towne of Upwell, other fenn grounds  
adioyning more south : betwene New Dike  
south ; Smallode north ; and Planfeild bank,  
called Bardike west ; with a narrow point  
on the east at Croswater. Herein are diverse  
severalls - 950 0 0

Westmore.

The same towne, other fennes more west :  
betwene Welnea River east ; the river Neane  
north ; Dodington grounds west : and Dazzy  
Lode south - 5919 0 0

The same towne, other fennes more  
north : called by diverse names, Ladwise,  
Marmound, and Thurling ; betwene the river  
Nearne on the south, and Eask Bishops  
Dike north ; and Elm Leame west - 2320 0 0

Elye.

Part of the great comon called Westmore,  
more south : betwene the New River south,  
and Dazzy Lode north ; Manea grounds  
and up Willow Lode west ; and Wellnea  
grounds and river east ; diverse townes doe  
comon in this fenne. The other part be-  
yond the New River is formerly set downe  
foll. [163]. - 4966 0 0

Ely towne, a litle narrow parcell of comon  
on the east of the towne : betwene the river  
south and the high ground north ; and the  
inclosures neare the towne west - 37 3 0

A severall car more west on the other side  
of the river, neare the howses at the townes-

end : compassed about with the river on every side - - - 5 0 0

The south ends of the yards of diverse tenements in Elie adioyning there more west : lying together betwene the back river on the east and south ; and the Great River neare the bridge on the west - - 12 0 0

The towne of Elye, a comon ffen more to the south-west beyond the bridge : betwene the river east, and the high grounds west ; the way from the bridge into the towne north ; and the inclosures of Braime south 367 0 0

The fferme called Braime, certen wet grounds in the two first inclosures : by the former comon on the north ; and the high grounds in Braime south and west - 14 0 0

The same fferme, other wet grounds in diverse other inclosures there more east : lying together betwene the former comon on the north ; and another comon neare to Thetford on the south and east - - 25 0 0

The towne of Elie, a comon ffen more east on the other side of the river : by the river west ; Soame ground south, and Stuntnea ground east. The New Cut crosseth over this and the peece following 136 3 0

The same towne, another comon ffen adioyning more north : by Stuntnea grounds east ; the Calcy north, and the river west 205 0 0

Stuntnea fferme, a parcell of ground more south : betwene the former of the two last ffennes west, and Stocklode south ; and the feild ground on the east and north - 21 3 0

The same fferme, a parcell of Mowground adioyning more east, called Dericks : by Stocklode south ; and the high ground north and east - - 42 3 0

The same ferme, a litle small peece at the north-east corner of the former: by the high ground east and west; and Soame Calcy north - - - 1 3 0

The same ferme, a peece more south and east: betwene the high ground, and Soame Calcy north and west; and Stocklode and the Borders in Soame south and east - - - 73 0 0

The same ferme, certen other severall inclosures there on the other side of the Calcy: by the high ground west; Nornea grounds north; the Calcy south; and the said Borders east - - - 116 1 0

The same ferme, more north: the ends of certen severall inclosures; by the high grounds south and east; and Dunstall north 15 0 0

The ffermers there, a comon fen, called Dunstall, adioyning, more north: by the high ground and the mowffen west; diverse severalls north; and extending east to the end of Blak Bankes - - - 88 3 0

The same ffermers a mowffen at the north-west corner of the former: by the severalls north, west, and south. This is also called Dunstall - - - 35 0 0

Diverse other small severalls of diverse men adioyning more north and west: by the river or lode north and west; and Thornea ground betwene them and Black Bank east 62 1 20

Thornea ferme, a parcell of medow adioyning more east: by Dunstall comon south, and Black Bank east - - - 29 3 0

The same ferme, a peece adioyning more north: by the river or lode north, and the high ground east - - - 25 2 0

The same ferme, 2 small peces together

adioyning more east, neare the fferme house :  
by the high ground south and east; and  
the lode and comon ffen called Swaiesdell  
north - - - - 11 0 0

The same fferme, a parcell more east : by  
the high ground west; and the comon ffen  
north and east - - - - 7 0 0

The same fferme, a severall adioyning  
more east: by the said comon ffen and  
Great Metlam in Soame north and east;  
and Nornea grounds south - - - 127 0 0

The same fferme, a parcell of wooded  
ground there more west: betwene the high  
ground of this fferme north; and the low  
ground of Nornea south; extending west  
neare to the end of Black Bank - 17 3 0

The fferme called Nornea, certen severalls  
adioyning more south : between the 2 for-  
mer peces north; Great Metlam east; and  
Soame borders south - - - 392 0 0

The fferme called Quanea more north : a  
severall betwene Quanea Brink or Lode on  
the south and west; and the comon ffen on  
the north and east - - - 53 0 0

The same fferme, a several inclosed more  
north: by the Brink or Lode west; and the  
comon ffen on the north, east, and south - 11 3 0

The towne of Elie, a comon ffen there ad-  
ioyning (wherein the foresaid ffermes doe  
comon) by the Brink, and the former se-  
veralls west: Thornea groundes south; Great  
Metlam ffen east; and the river in part  
north. This is called Swanesdell - 565 3 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more west: by Quanea Brinke and the Lode  
east and south; the great river north; and



Stuntnea Calcy west. The new cut runeth through the midst of this - 762 0 0

The same towne, a mowffen more, north on the other side of the river: by the river south and east; Paddollake north, and another comon ffen west - 1020 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more east: by the great river west; Milnoll river north; and Great Metlam in Soame east, and in part south; there is a house upon this called Prickwillows - 435 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more east, called Greatshell: by Shepey Lode north; Milnoll river west; and Milnoll Burndffen on the south-east - 1248 0 0

A tenement and severall adioyning more north, called Sheepey: by Whelpmore north; and Littleport Burndffen west - 380 0 0

A tenement and several more east, called Spaindeff: by Whelpmore, east, north, and west; and Shepey Lode south - 39 2 0

The towne of Ely, a comon ffen more east, called Litleshell: between Whelpmore north, and Milnoll Sedgeffen south, and the Great Shell west. This is claimed by Lakingale, and by them called Westmore - 227 0 0

Wickin.

Wickin towne hath a comon ffen extending from Horscroft in Soame on the east, to the ffen called Ffordea on the west: between Wickin high grounds south, and Soame Meare and Sea Lode ffen and Sea Lode on the north; and then extendeth southward to Wickin severalls betwene the high ground east, and the river of Grant west - 1345 0 0

Certen severalls of Wickin adioyning more south: betwene the feild east, and the

river Grant west; and Wickin Lodes End  
south - - - - - 120 0 0

Wickin towne, a comon ffen more east,  
called Broadfen and Sedgefen: betwene  
the severalls north, and Wickin Lode south 437 2 0

Sir Edward Peyton, a severall adioyning  
more to the north-east: butting east upon  
the Lode - - - - - 40 0 0

The same towne of Wickin, a small  
comon adioyning more north, called Broad-  
fen; extending east a little beyond the  
Lodes end - - - - - 20 1 0

Isack Barow, Esq. a severall more west,  
betwene the Sedgeffen south, and his owne  
ground north, butting west upon the high  
ground. This peece is imbanked on both  
sides, both north and south 57 0 0

The same towne of Wickin, a litle comon  
more east, at the east end of Sir John Pey-  
ton's 40 acres aforesaid: by the Lode south,  
east, and west - - - - - 6 16 0

The same towne, a litle parcell of comon  
adioyning more north: by the high ground  
north - - - - - 20 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon ffen  
about five furlongs more east, toward Bur-  
well Clocke: by the Lode south; and the  
high ground north and east 85 1 0

A severall more west (beyonde the river  
of Grant) called Dimocks cottage: by  
Washlode north; butting east upon the  
river; west upon Ffeadal ffen - - - - - 6 3 0

Isack Barow, Esq. a small severall ad-  
ioyning more south: butting east and west  
as the former - - - - - 2 1 0

The towne of Wickin, a comon ffen ad-  
ioyning more south: by the river east;



Ffeadal ffen and Water Beech West ffen  
west - - - - - 178 2 0

A severall adioyning there more south :  
bound east upon the river ; west upon the  
Joist ffen - - - - - 4 2 0

Another severall adioyning more south :  
bounded east and west as the former 21 2 0

Another severall there more south, over  
against Wickin Lodes end : by the river  
east and south, and the said Joist ffen west 31 2 0

Burwell. Burwell towne, a comon ffen more east,  
beyond the river at Burwell Block : by  
Wickin Lode north and east ; another Lode  
west ; and the ffeild ground south 421 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning more west : betwene Wickin Lode  
north, and Burwell high lode south ; with  
a narrow gory point westward, at the meet-  
ing of the two lodes - - - - - 1120 0 0

The same towne and Reach, another com-  
mon ffen adioyning more south : by the high  
ground east and part south ; and Reach  
Lode on the south-west ; with a narrow  
gory point westward at the meeting of the  
two lodes - - - - - 1434 0 0

Soffham. Soffham and Reach, a comon ffen adioyn-  
ing more south : betwene Reach Lode north,  
and Soffham Lode south ; the river of Grant  
west ; and the high grounds east - 3221 0 0

Soffham, another comon ffen adioyning  
more south : betwene Soffham Lode north ;  
and Botsham Lode south ; the high ground  
east ; and Botsham ground west - 1337 0 0

Bottesham. Botsham towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more west : bounded north and south as the  
former ; and by the river of Grant west - 541 0 0

Horningsea,  
Quy, and Dit-  
ton.

Botsham, and the three townes of Quy, Ditton and Horningsea, a comon ffen adioyning more south: by the high ground called Lodemore east; and other high ground, in part south; the high ffen and the feild at Clayhive west. This ffen is called the Rough - 866 0 0

The said three townes, a comon ffen adioyning more west, called High Fen: by the former east and north, and the high ground west. It is banked on the north and west parts - 308 2 0

The said three townes, a parcell of comon more west, by the bank aforesaid on the north-east: and the high ground on the south-west - 13 1 0

The said three townes, a comen ffen adioyning moresouth, called Low Fen, betwene the high ground west, and the high ground and Quy Milbeck east; butting upon Highffen, and extending south, with a narrow gory point beyond Quymill - 341 0 0

The said three townes, a litle parcell of comon more east at the said mill: betwene the Milbeck and the floodgate east and west; butting south upon Cambridge way - 4 3 0

The said three townes, a ffen more north called Offen: neare Augsey Abby, by the Milbeck west; and the said becke and the Abby yard north; and the high ground on the east and south - 155 2 0

The said three townes, a parcell of comon at Botsham Lodes end: by the said Lode east; the river of Grant north and west; and the high ground at Clayhive south - 64 1 0

Chesterton. Chesterton towne, a little comon over  
against Ditton church: lying betwene the  
high ground west; and the river of Grant,  
east and south - - - - - 47 1 0

A litle severall carr more south: betwene  
the north end of Chesterton comon aforesaid  
on the west; and the river east - - - - - 2 1 20

Melton. The towne of Melton, a parcell of comon  
and some severalls lying together at the  
north end of the former: betwene the river  
east; and the high ground south, west,  
and north - - - - - 230 0 0

Strettham. Strettham, Sir Miles Sandys, a severall ffe  
at Dimocks cottage: by Wash Lode north:  
Wickin Fen east; Waterbeech Fen south;  
the meare and mearground west. This is  
called Feadal Fen - - - - - 102 0 0

A severall more north beyond Wash Lode,  
called Parsons Holt: by the Lode south;  
and Hold Fen north and east - - - - - 3 3 0

Another litle severall adioyning more  
west: bounded north and south as the former - - - - - 2 0 0

Another severall adioyning more west:  
by the said Lode south; the meare and  
meare grounds north and west - - - - - 7 3 0

The same towne of Strettham, a comon  
mowffen there more north, called Holeffen:  
by Washlode, and the meare grounds south;  
the river of Grant east; severalls of Thet-  
ford and the river Owse north; the same  
river and Dallode west - - - - - 265 0 0

The same towne, a comon mowffen ad-  
ioyning more west, called Dolanedowes: by  
Dallode and Bringham Dike east; Wash-  
lode south: and the river Owse on the north-  
west - - - - - 61 2 0

Sir Miles Sandys, a severall ffen more  
(beyond the meare called Chairefen Hilles)  
betwene the meare grounds north: the Joist-  
fen of Waterbech south and east; Haidon  
lake in part, and the river Owse in part  
west - - - - - 400 0 0

Part hereof at the north-west corner  
is called Willow Fen, with a tenement upon  
it called Mogs cottage - - - - - 002 3 0

Idem, a litle comon more west, called also  
Willow Fen: by the former ground east and  
north; the river west; and Willow Fen  
Lake south - - - - - 6 3 0

Idem, another severall to Sir Miles Sandys,  
more south, called also Willow Fen: by  
the former great pece so called on the  
east; Haydon Lake on the west and north;  
and Chittering Dike south - - - - - 19 0 0

Strettham towne, a comon mowffen ad-  
ioyning more east, called Chairffenplaine:  
by the river north; the same river at the  
Ferry-house in part, and Cottenham Lode  
in part west; Chittering Dike north; and  
Haidon Lake east - - - - - 207 1 0

The same towne, a comon mowffen be-  
yond the fferry: betwene the river east and  
south; Whartlode north; and Wilberton  
Fennes west - - - - - 154 3 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more  
north: by Whartlode south; Wilberton  
Fennes west; the high ground north; and  
the high ground and Ferry Dike in part east 150 0 0

A small severall at the Ferry Dike, more  
east: by the former comon south, west,  
north, and in part east - - - - - 1 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more east:



by the Fery Dike west; the river south;  
Barlake east; and the high ground north - 130 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen more  
east: by Barlake, and the high ground west;  
the river south-east; and Strettham Lode on  
the north-east - - - 117 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more north: by Strettham Lode south; the  
river east; and the high ground west - 94 1 0

Sir Miles Sandys, a severall ffen adioyning  
more north: by the river east; Widowes  
Pingle, and New Ditch north; and the in-  
closed high ground west - - - 96 0 0

Thetford.

Thetford towne, a comon pasture adioyn-  
ing more north, called Goldsmore: by Har-  
rimer severalls, and the river in part east;  
the former grounds south; Thetforde ffeildes  
and other high grounds west and north - 217 0 0

Certen severalls adioyning more east,  
called Harrimer severalls: by the former  
ground south and west; the river of Owse  
east; and the Lode from Harrimer to Thet-  
ford north - - - 90 0 0

A severall on the north side of the said  
Lode, with a tenement upon it: compassed  
about with the said Lode and river on every  
side - - - 8 1 0

Certen other severalls more south: called  
also Harrimer severalls; by the river of  
Grant east, and the river of Ouse west, with  
a narrow gory point at the north end, at the  
meeting of the two rivers. At which point  
is a tenement called Harrimer - - - 38 1 0

Another severall there more east: by  
Soame grounds north, and in part east; and  
Wickin grounds south, and in part east;

and the river of Grant west. This is cast up  
in Wickin Comon; because the ditch is  
not described betwene them - - 51 2 16

A comon ffen more north: betwene Thet-  
ford inclosed ground south; and Braime  
inclosures north; the river east; and the  
inclosed grounds west - - 120 0 0

Certen wet ground within two inclosures  
adioyning more west: whereof the close  
more northward contains - - 3 2 0

The other more southward contains - 4 2 0

Cottenham towne, a comon ffen beyond  
Strettham Fery, banked from the river Owse  
on the north, and Cottenham Lode on the  
east; called, at the south east corner, Seech-  
hill - - - - 272 2 0

The Outcast there betwene the bank and  
the river; and betwene the bank and the  
Lode - - - - 20 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning more south, by Cottingham Lotts  
south: butting east upon Cottenham Lode 464 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen ad-  
ioyning more south, called Cottenham  
Lottes: by Landbeach Fen east, and a bank  
south - - - - 236 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyn-  
ing more south: by the high grounds south  
and west - - - - 76 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more to  
the north-east: by the two first of Cotten-  
ham Fennes on the east; and it is banked  
from the river of Owse on the north - 429 0 0

The outcast of this ffen betwene the  
banke and the river - - - - 20 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning



more south : by the high ground south, and  
Smithymans west; this is called' Bullocks  
Hast - - - - - 79 0

The same towne, a parcell of the comon  
ffen called Smithyffen : by the high ground of  
that ffen south : and a bank on the west by  
the river of Owse, and a comon Lode - 97 0

The same towne, another parcell of that  
comon ffen adioyning more west : extend-  
ing west to Aldrith Calcy, betwene the river  
north, and the high ground of that ffen, and  
the ground called Hemp Falles on the  
south - - - - - 880 0

The same towne, another part of that  
comon ffen adioyning more south : extend-  
ing from the gateway into Hemp Falls on  
the north, to the gravelled Calcy at the  
south end of the ffen; betwene the high  
ground of that ffen east and north; and  
Hempfalls and the intercomon ffen with  
Rampton west and south - - - 231 0

The same towne, another parcell of that  
comon ffen adioyning more east : by the  
said Calcy south; the ditch next the feild  
east; and the high ground of that ffen north  
and west - - - - - 42 0

Rampton.

The same towne, together with Rampton,  
another intercomon ffen more south : be-  
twene Smithymans aforesaid north; the  
high ground east and south; Rampton me-  
dowes and Cottenham bank west - 550 0

Rampton and  
Willingham.

Rampton and Willingham, another inter-  
comon ffen more west, called Iram : betwene  
Rampton grounds on the south, and West  
Cottenham bank east, and Hempfall north;  
most of this is dry ground. The wet part

# APPENDIX

lieth betwene Cottenham bank and Hempfall north and east, and the high grounds south and east - - - 35 0 0

Rampton, a ffen adioyning more north, called Rampton Hempfall: by Cottenham bank and Smithyfen east; and other grounds called also Hempfall north - - - 111 0 0

Rampton and Willingham, another intercomon more north so called: by Smithyfen east and north, and Aldrith Calcy west; it is banked about on the east, north, and west; and leaveth another outcast on the outside. It contains within bank - 233 0 0

The same townes, another intercomon adioyning more south ~~so~~ called, butting east upon Rampton Hempfall; west as the former, with an outcast at that end - 113 0 0

The same townes, another ffen adioyning more south, called also Hempfall: by Rampton grounds south; butting east upon Rampton Hempfall, and Rampton Iram, west as the former; with an outcast also there - - - 103 0 0

The same townes hold as intercomon the said outcast of these 3 former peeces: by Smithyfen north, and Aldrith Calcy west 32 0 0

Sir Miles Sandys certen inclosed grounds there more west, called the Stacks: by the Meargrounds called the Sholds, and the Pounds north; Aldrith Calcy east; and the medowes called Long Stacks south - 77 0 0

The towne of Willingham, a ffen called Babishyme more west: by the Meargrounds called the Sholds east; extending north, with a narrow spong to the river - 74 0 0

The same towne, a ffen called Milking-

Willingham.  
Jam. Pascall.

Sir Miles.

Sir Miles.

hill adioyning more south : by Middleffen  
south and west - - - 76 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more south and west, called Middleffen : by  
Bathingbank north; Willingham Lode west;  
and the high ground south - - - 453 0 0

The same towne, a ffen more north,  
called Nowditchffen, and Middlehill : be-  
twene Bathinge Lode south, and the river  
north - - - 196 0 0

The same, a small ffen more west, called  
Eastland, by Bathing Water south, and  
west, and east; and the river north - 34 1 0

The same towne, a mowffen more west,  
called Great Shelfolds, betwene Bawditch  
east; the Meare and Mear grounds south,  
Litle Shelfolds west; and the river north - 139 0 0

Heire of Sir Edrd Hynd, an imbanked  
ffen adioyning more west, called Litle Shel-  
folds : by Over groundes south and west; and  
the river north - - - 80 0 0

The same towne of Willingham, a comon  
ffen more south, called Clattox, alias Lan-  
grach : by the Meare grounds north and  
east; and Over grounds west - - - 115 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen called  
West Fen, at the south end of the former:  
betwene Willingham Lode east, and Over  
Fen west; and the high grounds south - 351 0 0

Wilberton.

Mr. Towers hath in Wilberton a tenement  
and certen severalls lying together, betwene  
the river south, and the comon fermes  
east, west, and north - - - 74 0 0

The towne of Wilberton, a mowffen ad-  
ioyning more east, called the Lazlar : by the

river south; Streetham grounds east; and  
Whartlode north - - -

520 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen more  
north, called Rushfen: by Strettham grounds  
east, and Haddenham grounds west; Whart-  
lode south, and the feild north - -

425 0 0

The same towne; a comon ffen adioyning  
more south, called Kegffen: by the Lazlar  
east; Haddenham ground west; and Mr.  
Towers severalls south - -

204 0 0

The same towne, a litle parcel of comon  
at the south-west corner of the former: by  
Haddenham ground west; butting south  
upon the river - - -

5 0 0

Haddenham towne, a comon ffen called  
above Turves: by Wilberton ground east;  
and the river south - -

115 0 0

Haddenham.

The Rectory of Haddenham, a severall  
more west, called Priestcroft: by London-  
doles west; and the river south and east -

11 0 0

Haddenham, a mowffen called London-  
doles adioyning more west: by the Church  
Fen north and west; and the river south -

95 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen, called  
Church Fen and the Holmes: by the former  
doles and the river south; Aldrith Calcy  
west; and the Leame south - -

600 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more north, called Hoggeshill: betwene the  
feilds north; Wilberton ground east; and  
the Leame south - -

280 0 0

The heire of Edrd Kirks, a long holt in  
severaltie: betwene Aldrith Calcy east, and  
Ewell Fenn west; butting south upon the  
river; north upon the Leame - -

7 2 0

The Earle of Suff, a severall ffen ad-



ioyning more west, called Ewell Fen: betwene the river and certen grounds of Sir Miles Sandis south; and the Leame and Dambanke on the north and west - 402 0

The towne, a comon ffen called Beryffen: extending from Aldrith Calcy on the east, to Erith Calcy at Hilcow on the north: betwene the high ground on the north and east; and the Leame and Galfen on the south and west - 234 0

The same towne hath a comon ffen called Galfen adioyning more west: betwene Erith Calcy north; and Dambank south; and the Delffs west - 1200 0

Mr. Dockery, a severall, with a tenement called Finches Cot: by Ewell Fen east; Dumbank west; and the river south - 11 0

Certen severalls there adioyning more south, called the Oversdelffs: by Dambank east; the river south; and the Great Pingle west 424 0

Other severalls adioyning more north, betwene Galfen on the south and east, and Erith Calcy north: called Neather of Delffs 325 0

A severall more west, called the Pingle, by the said Overrsdelffs east and north, and the river south - 26 0

Another severall adioyning more west, called also the Pingle: butting north upon the Calcy; south upon the river - 12 0

Another severall Pingle adioyning more west: butting north and south as the former 12 1

A tenement and yard adioyning more west, called the Hermitage at Erith bridge: betwene the Calcy north, and the river south - 1 3 1

A three cornerd severall there more north:

by the Calcy south; the West Water west;  
and a bank east - - - 2 2 20 .

Another severall adioyning more east,  
being inbanked on the west and north; by  
Erith south - - - 10 0 0

Another severall adioyning more east,  
and butting south as the former - 1 3 20

Another severall adioyning more east,  
and butting south as the former - 2 3 0

Another severall adioyning more east,  
by the saide Calcy south and east - 2 3 0

A severall more east, called Callicroft: by  
Middlemore in Sutton west; Hildoles east  
and north; and the Calcy south - 5 0 0

The towne, a mowfen adioyning more  
east, called Hildoles, in twoe peeces toge-  
ther; whereof the longer lieth by the Calcy  
south; and North Fen east and in parte  
north; and Middlemore west - - 192 0 0

The other pece is shorter east: by North  
Fen east, and Meadland in Sutton north;  
and Middlemore west - - 36 2 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more east: betwene the Calcy and the feild  
south; Sutton Fen on the north; and the  
high ground east - - - 1020 0 0

This is called Smalffen, alias North Fenn,  
&c.

Over towne, a ffen called Blunt Fen: be-  
twene Great and Little Shelfolds north;  
Over Lode south; and Howe Fen west;  
now devided amongst the tenants - 692 0 0

Over.

The same towne, a mowfen adioyning  
more west, called Howe Fen: by the river  
north and west; and Over Lode south - 750 0 0

The same towne, a ffen on the other side



of the Lode: by the Lode north; Willingham Fen east; the high ground south; the Calcy at the bridge leading to the Ferry west. It is now devided amongst the tenants 416 0 0

The same towne, another litle ffenn more west: betwene the said Calcy east; and Swacy grounds west; the Lode north, and the high ground south. This is also devided amongst the tenants - - 23 0 0

Swacye.

Swacy towne, a comon ffen more west: betwene Over Lode north and Swacy Lode south: and the river west - - 276 0 0

Sir John Cutts three litle pightles adioyning more east: betwene over ground north, and Swacy high ground, neare the Church south; whereof that on the south side contains - - 25 0 0

The middle pightle containeth - 17 0 0

The north pightle next Overground contains - - 5 0 0

A severall adioyning more south: by the last pightle north, and the middle pightle west. It is banked on the east, north, and west; and lieth by the high ground south 17 0 0

Sir John Cutts, a severall more south, adioyning to the first of his former three pightells on the north; the high ground east and west; and the low pasture south 20 0 0

The said towne of Swacy, a comon ffen adioyning more south, called the Cow Pasture: by the high ground south and west 358 0 0

Part of a severall adioyning there more east: by the former south and west, and the high grounds north and east - - 8 0 0

The same towne, a little triangled pece west of the church, by Swacie Lode west;

and the Feed Fen north; and the high ground east

4 2 0

The same towne, another peece of comon more south-west: by the Lode north-east, and the high ground south and west

22 2 0

The same towne, a mowffen adioyning more west: by Draiton Mowffen west; the high ground south; and the Lode in part north-east. It is in parte imbanked on the north side

222 0 0

A litle severall holt more north beyond the bank; by the river north, butting east upon the Lodes end

0 2 0

Another litle severall holt, at the west end of the former, broader and shorter than the former: betwene the bank south and the river north

0 2 0

Draiton towne, a mowffen there more west: by Swacye Mowfen east; the high ground south; the river north; being imbanked at that end

154 2 0

Draiton.

The same towne, a Feed Fen more west: by the former east and south; Draiton Lode west; and a bank north

136 2 0

The same towne, a parcell of that ffen more north: betwene the said bank south; and the river north and west

15 3 0

Stanton.

Stanton towne, a Feed Fen adioyning more west, by Draiton Lode east; the high ground south; and the river north

252 0 0

St. Ives.

The same towne, a mowffen adioyning more west: by the high ground south; the river north; and Stanton Lode in part west

224 0 0

The towne of St Ives, a comon ffen more north, on the other side of the river: by the river south, and a lode and diverse in-

	closed pastures on the west. It containeth 314 acres, but I suppose about a third part to be dry ground	-	-	-	210	0	0
Holliwell.	Holliwell towne, certen meadow grounds adioyning more east: by the high grounds north; and the high grounds in part, and the inclosed medowes in part east; and the river south	-	-	-	280	0	0
	The same towne, certen other severall medowes adioyning more east, by the river south and east	-	-	-	27	0	0
The Soken, Somersham.	The same, together with the Soken townes, an intercomon ffen more east: betwene the river south and east; and the high grounds west and north	-	-	-	1005	0	0
	A severall meadow ground at the north-west corner of the former, at the two bridges: by the former ground south and west; the river east; and the high ground north	-	-	-	7	0	0
	Another parcell of meadow ground adioyning more east: by a holt next the river south: a feild way east; and other medowes being north-west	-	-	-	23	3	0
	A severall holt more south: betwene the former ground north, and the river south	-	-	-	3	0	0
	Another litle holt at the east end of the former: by the river south	-	-	-	0	3	20
	Another longer holt at the east end of the former: by the river south	-	-	-	4	0	0
	Two parcells of meadow more north: betwene the said two holts south, and the high ground north; the forsaid ffeildway west; and a litle grove of wood east; whereof the west parcell next the way containeth	-	-	-	30	0	0

The other next the growe of wood containeth - - - - 10 3 0

A parcel of meadow adioyning more east, with that litle grove of wood on the west side: betwene the river south; and the high ground north and east - - 34 0 0

Sutton towne, a part of the ffen called Middlemore: by the Westwater west; Haddenham grounds and Erith Calcy south and east; and the New River north - - 243 2 0

Sutton.

The same towne, a part of Southmead Land adioyning more east: by Haddenham Hilldoles south; and the New River on the north east - - - - 123 1 0

The same towne, a ground adioyning more east: by Sutton Lode north; the New River in part west; and a drove way on the south-east. It is parcell of the ffen that was divided from Haddenham - - 73 0 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more to the south-west: by the waye next Sutton Lode, and the gravell way north; Haddenham small ffen in part south; and another drove way east. This was also parcell of the intercommon with Haddenham 388 2 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more east: by the drove waies west and south, and the Calcy in part north. This is also parcell of that intercomon - 72 3 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more south: by the drove way north; and Haddenham Fen south and west. This was also parcell of that intercomon - - 122 3 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more east: by the two former west; Sutton high grounds north, and Haddenham Fen



south. This was also parcell of that inter-comon - - - 430 0 0

The same towne, other severalls at the west end of the towne, betwene Sutton Lode on the north and west: and the gravell way south - - - 34 0 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more west: by West Fen on the north; and Northmead Land west - - - 60 0 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more south: by the gravell way north; and Sutton Lode south and east; extending west, with a narrow point to the New River 26 2 20

The same towne, a part of Northmead land adioyning more north: by the former 60 acres east, and the New River on the north-east - - - 75 1 0

The same towne, other severalls at the north-east corner of the former (being parcell of West Fen): by the Lode south; the New River north-west; and the New Lode east 62 2 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more east (being also parcell of West Fen): by New Lode west; Sutton Lode south; and Caplode east - - - 27 3 0

The same towne, other severalls adioyning more north (being also parcell of West Fen): by the two former south; Caplode east; and the New River on the north-west. The New Lode crosseth over it - - - 128 2 0

Mr. Dunbar, fermer of the Maner house, and the demeans of the maner, hath within the inclosures at the maner house on the north side and south side of the banke or way leading from the ffen to the house, some wet grounds next the ffemes by Caplode west 18 0 0

A severall adioyning more north: betwene the highway east, and Caplode west 10 2 0

Another severall adioyning more north: bounded east and west as the former. Newlode crosseth over this, and the pece following - - - 9 1 0

Another severall adioyning more north: by a drove way north: bounded east and west, as the former - - - 10 0 0

Another severall adioyning more north: betwene the Drove east, and Caplode west: butting north upon the New River - 5 2 20

The towne hath other small severalls adioyning more east: betwene the former drove west, and another drove east; butting north upon the New River; south upon the highway - - - 125 0 0

The towne hath other severalls adioyning more east: betwene the former drove west; the high grounds south and east; and the New River and Barlode north - - 32 2 0

The same towne, certen severalls in Blockffen, beyond the Newe River: betwene Chartresse ffermes on the north and west; Northffen south, and Mepale ground east - 350 0 0

The same towne, other severalls of Northffen adioyning more south: by the former and Horselode Fen in Chartres north; Caplode south and west; Mepale grounds and the New River east - - - 1311 0 0

The same towne, other severalls in a ffen called the Middle, at the west end of the former: by Chartresse grounds north and west; and Mr. Wendees Hollwoods south 102 0 0

Mr. Wendee diverse inclosed grounds adioyning more south: betwene Chartresse

These in Chartresse.



severalls north; and West Fen east; Little Holwood south; and the West Water west. These are called Great Holwood and Abbots Holwood, with a dwelling house upon them - - - - - 936 2 0

The towne, other severalls in the fien called West Fen adioyning more east: by Caplode north; the New River east; and Northmeadland south - - - - - 1037 0 0

The same towne, a severall adioyning more west, called Little Holwood: by Great Holwood north; the West Water west; and Northmeadland on the south-east - - - - - 165 0 0

The same towne, the greater part of Northmeadland adioyning more east: by West Fen north: the New River east; and Sutton Lode west. The other part is beyond the river - - - - - 674 0 0

The same towne, a part of Southmeadland adioyning more south: by the New River east; and Sutton Lode and Middlemore west - - - - - 125 0 0

The same towne, a part of Middlemore adioyning more west: by Westwater west; Sutton Lode north, and the New River on the south-east. The other parts of these two former are beyond the New River - - - - - 95 1 0

Mepale.

Mepale, a little fien by Barlode south: a tenement and yard at Mepale Bridge east; and the New River on the north-west - - - - - 15 0 0

The same towne, a fien adioyning more east, called Gal Fen, betwene Bial Fen east and Bar Lode, alias Mepale Lode south; and the New River on the north-west - - - - - 86 0 0

The same towne, certen small severalls adioyning there more east on the other side

of the Lode: betwene the said Lode and a long land of Mr. Jetherells north; ~~W~~Witham Comon easte; Meple Grene, and the high grounds south and west - - 33 0 0

The same towne, a part of the comon called Gal Fen, beyond the New River: by the said river on the south-east; and Pilgrams Ea north - - 120 3 0

A severall there more north: by the former pece south, and Pilgrams Ea north and east 21 0 0

Other severalls adioyning there more west: by the twoe former east and south; and Chartres Block Fen north - - 54 0 0

Mr. Owen Jetherell, a severall adioyning more west: by the former east and north; and Block Fen and North Fen west - 101 0 0

The towne, a severall there adioyning more south: by North Fen on the south-west; and the New River on the south-east 65 0 0

Witeham Meadlands more north: betwene Chartresse Fermes west; Biall Fen east and north; and Mepale Gal Fen south - 135 2 0

The same towne, certen severalls more south, wherein is the long land of Mr. Jetherell: betwene Witeham Comon in part south; the Lode next Biall Fenn north; and the waie to the Fen Gate east - 127 1 20

The same towne, a parcell of comon adioyning more south: by the former severalls north; Mepale severalls west; the high ground south; and the Fengate way east 52 1 20

The same towne, and Covenie and Wainworth, a comon ffen called Hales adioyning more east: by Witeham severalls and ffeilds west and south; a gravell way and high

Witeham.

Covenye.

Note, that Mana is in Covenye parish, and Mana grounds are set down foll. [207].

grounds of Covenie east ; and Covenie  
severalls and the Lode north - - 545 0 0

Covenie, certen severalls there adioyning  
more north : by the Lode north ; the high  
grounds of Covenie, Wardy Hill, and Hales  
aforesaid south ; and the said Hales west 150 2 0

Coveny Dames. Covenie, certen severalls on the other side  
of the Lode, called Covenie dames : betwene  
Biall Fen on the west and north, and the  
Lode south and east. Wherein John Davy  
hath a tenement, with a pightle and a close  
by the said ffen west ; and the Lode south 14 1 20

Thomas Whin, jun. a close at the north  
end of the former : by the said ffen west - 13 3 0

Heirs of Thomas Watson, a close at the  
north end of the former : by the Biall Fen  
west and north - - - 15 3 0

John Watson, a close adioyning more  
east : by Biall Fen north - - - 12 0 0

William Smith, at the south end of the  
former, a close devided into two parts : by  
Joane Pope east ; stopping south with a  
gorie point upon hir ground - - - 12 0 20

Joane Pope, a long close in three parts  
adioyning more east : butting south upon  
the Lode ; north upon the ffen - - - 43 0 0

John Fordham, a long close adioyning  
more east : and butting north and south as  
the former - - - - 70 1 0

Richard Goodday, a long close adioyning  
more east : and butting north and south as  
the former - - - - 67 3 20

Thomas Smith, a short close adioyning  
more east : butting south upon the lode ;  
north upon the former close - - - 13 1 0

John Smith, the like short close adioyn-  
ing more east: and butting south upon the  
said lode - - - - 13 0 0

Thomas Winter, a long close adioyning  
more east: butting south upon the lode;  
north upon the ffen - - - - 67 0 0

Mr. Sharpe, a long close adioyning more  
east: butting north and south as the former 74 0 0

Robert Mathews, a long close adioyning  
more east: butting north and south as the  
former - - - - 80 1 0

Humberston March, Esq. a close adioyn-  
ing more east: by the Droveway in part  
east; butting north and south as before - 72 2 0

Mr. Sharpe, two litle closes adioyning  
more east, lying together in forme of a tri-  
angle: by the ffen north; and the Droveway  
on the south-east - - - - 18 0 0

The same manor, two closes and three  
pightles lying together there more south:  
betwene the said Droveway on the west and  
north; Peter Andrewes ground east; the  
lode and a holt of Mr. William Marches  
south - - - - 65 1 0

Mr. William March, a litle holt adioyn-  
ing more south: by the lode south and  
west; and Peter Andrews ground east - 3 0 0

Peter Andrews, a long close adioyning  
more east, in five p'cells: by the two former  
west; butting north upon the Droveway;  
south upon the lode - - - - 55 3 0

Robert Mathews, a close adioyning more  
east, shorter north; butting there upon  
John Mathews; south upon the lode - 25 0 0

The same Robert, another close adioyn-



	ing more east: by Biallffen east; butting north and south as the former - -	10 0 0
Hitherto Coveny Dam'es.	John Mathewes, a close at the north end of the two former: by Biallffen east; butting north upon the Droveway - -	29 1 0
	William March, Esq. a severall called the Hallgrounde, more south: by the lode west; the comon ffennes north and east; and other severalls south - -	103 0 0
	Some other severalls adioyning more south: by the high ground at Coveny Church west; the comon ffen east; and a Droveway south - -	26 1 20
	Other severalls adioyning more south: by the said Droveway north; the high grounds of Covenie west; and the comon ffen south and east - -	67 0 0
Witchforde.	Coveny towne, and Witchford and Winworth, a comon ffen adioyning more south and west: betwene Ashmore east; Dounham Fenn north; the high grounds south; and the gravel waye in part west - -	1254 2 0
	Witchford, a comon ffen there more east, called Ashmore: by the former west; Dounham Fenn north; and the high grounds south and east - -	441 0 0
	The same towne, a parcell of comon more south at the bridge: betwene the high grounds south-west and north; and the lode coming under the bridge east - -	25 3 0
Grunte Fen.	The same towne, together with six more, viz. Elie Wentworth, Haddenham, Wilberton, Strettham and Thetford, an intercomon called Gruntes Fen, lying there more south from Witchford Bridge; betwene the high grounds on every side -	1280 0 0

m towne, a comon ffen more		Dounham.	
wene Coveny Fen and Ashmore			
ffields and high grounds on the			
orth; and extending west with a			
l to Dounham hyeth		978	0 0
ne towne, a parcell of comon			
: by the New Lode next to West-			
h; the high ground south and			
Dounham Parke corner east		44	0 0
ll there more north, beyond the			
ie said lode south; on Willow-			
and Westmore north		8	1 0
severall there adioyning more			
a tenement upon it: by the said			
; and Westmore north and east		3	1 20
hop of Elie a severall more east			
Frith: by the lode at Dounham			
south; and Westmore on the			
and north		345	0 0
ie Bishshop twoe parcells of wet			
hin the said Parke, more south:			
lode north; whereof the peece			
contains		15	0 0
r more east contains		33	0 0
e of Suff., a ffen in Chartresse,		Chartresse.	
y Fen: by Block Fen in Do-			
rth; and the high ground in			
south; and Biall Fen east		215	0 0
ie towne, a comon ffen adioyn-			
outh, called Longwood: betwene			
east; and the high grounds of			
west		1845	0 0
is, a severall ffen, called Sedge			
ning more south: by Witchm			
s east; and Sutton Sedge Fen		350	0 0



Chartresse towne, a comon ffen, called  
Whinny Fen, adioyning more west: by  
Langwood east; and the high ground north 788 1

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more south, called Horslode Fen: by Cap-  
lode west; and Sutton Fennes south and  
east - - - 786 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more west: by Caplode east; the high  
grounds at the Fery-house north; the West  
Water and certen severalls west; and Sut-  
ton Middle south, with a gory point at that  
end - - - 204 1

A severall there adioyning more west: by  
the former north; Sutton Middle east; and  
Mr. Wendees Hollwood south - - 80 0

Diverse other small severalls there ad-  
ioyning: by the twoe former east; Mr.  
Wendees grounds south; and the West  
Water west and north - - 408 0

Chartresse towne, a comon ffen more  
north: by the Westwater south and west;  
the Leame east; and Westmore Mowfen  
north - - - 126 2

The same towne, a comon ffen more east;  
by the high grounds east and south; and  
the Leame west - - - 153 3

The same towne, a small comon there  
adioyning more north: by the Leame west;  
and the lodes neare the dwelling-houses on  
the south and east; with gory points both  
at the north and south ends - - 8 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more west, called Westmore Mowffen: by  
the Leame east; a severall of Mr. Betts  
west; and Westmore Feedffen north - 342 1 0

Mr. Betts, a long narrow severall adioyn- more west: betwene the former ffen east; l the West Water west - - -	30 0 0
Thomas Times, a litle severall more north ing a three-cornered pece): betwene est Water west; and Westmore Feed- east; with a gory point at the south l - - - -	9 1 0
The Lady Peyton, a severall adioyning re north: and bounded east and west the former - - - -	12 2 0
A severall adioyning more north: butting it upon another severall; west with a row point upon the Westwater -	4 2 0
A triangled severall at the east end of the o former: by Westmore Feed Fen east	8 0 0
A severall adioyning more north: by the o former south; butting west upon the est Water; east upon Westmore aforesaid	10 3 20
Mr. Betts, a severall adioyning more rth: by the comon ffen called the Beze- ngs north; butting east and west as the rmer - - - -	27 2 0
Chartresse towne, a comon ffen adioyn- ng more east, called Westmore Feed Fen: y Beezelings north, and in part west; the eame in part, and the high ground in part ast - - - -	756 0 0
The same towne, a small parcell of comon dioyning more east: betwene the high ground east, and the Leame west; stopping orth upon the said Leame, with a narrowe point toward the bridge at the townesend	12 2 0
The same towne, a comon ffen more north; betwene the long narrow inclosed feild west; Beezelings north; the Oldea	

next Dodington grounds north-east; and  
the Leame south-east - - - 896 00

The same towne, a large comon ffenn ad-  
ioyning more south: by the Leame and the  
Park ffrith of Dodington north: Dallode  
and Honyfen east; and the high ground of  
Langward and of Chartresse Feild south and  
west - - - - 2610 0 0

Dodington.

Dodington towne, a comon ffen, called  
Blockffen: by Hony Fen and Biall Fen  
south; butting west upon the ffrith - - 630 0 0

Sir J. Peiton, a severall ffen called the  
Frith, at the west end of the former: by the  
Leame next the Parke west - - - 51 1 0

Idem, a ffenn adioyning more east, called  
Stony Fen: by Block Fen south; and Ma-  
nea grounds east - - - - 3120 0 0

Heire of Sir Richard Cox, a three square  
peece, late parcel of Stonyffen: on the east  
side of the said ffen, by Manea Dammes east 100 0 0

Dodington towne, a comon ffen called  
Wimbleton Sedgeffen: by Stonyfen south,  
and the Leame west - - - - 1140 0 0

The same, a narrow ffen more west: be-  
twene the Leame east, and Wimbleton  
high grounds west; extending south neare  
to the Parke side - - - - 77 0 0

The same towne, the comon ffenns called  
Horsmore, Litle Binnymore, Graceffen, and  
Chafferfen, lying together: by the former  
Sedgeffen and Stonie south; the Leame  
west, and Upwell Fennes east - - - 2900 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyn-  
ing more north, called Great Binnymore:  
by Reades Fen, and the river of Neane  
north; and the Leame west - - - 854 0 0

The heire of Mr. Davye, a severall ffen



eadsffen: by the river north; and			
er ffen east, west, and south	-	120	0 0
ngton towne, a comon ffen more			
led Stowfen, and the	: by		
ame east; and Wimbleton high			
south	-	1063	0 0
ame towne, a comon ffen more to			
h-east, called East Hall More: by			
at Parke in Dodington east; and			
se ground south	-	106	0 0
ame towne, a comon ffen adioyning			
st, called Underhill: by Bezelings			
the north-west; and the Old Ea on			
h	-	100	0 0
ame towne, a comon ffen more east,			
Aukeny More: by Bezeling Lode			
and Dikeamore west	-	315	0 0
ame towne, a comon ffenn adioyning			
ath, called Bezelings: betwene Chat-			
annes east; the Westwater west and			
nd Bezelings Lode north	-	1289	0 0
ame towne, a great comon turffen,			
ullverton: by the Westwater east;			
ground at Bennets Crosse, called			
fens south; and other ffennes of			
west; the River Neane, and diversse			
of Benwick north: within this			
is Benwick mear	-	1895	0 0
Betts, a severall cotage and yard			
called Pulner Cot: by the West-			
st; and the former ffen south, west,			
h	-	1	0 0
e litle severalls there more north, at			
armouth: Basnolclofts: wherof the			
the Mearmouth and Meare west and			
and the former ffen east; and the			
ter north contains	-	4	2 0

The second, more west, betwene the two mouths of the Mear - - - 1 0 0

The third, more west: by the Mearmouth and Mear east and south; and the said ffen south and west - - - 5 0 0

Certen severall tenements and yards at Benwick more north: by the Westwater east; and the river Neane north; and the said ffen in part south and west - - 14 2 20

Mr. Balham, a severall ground adioyning more west: by the river north; and a parcell of comon ground west - - - 6 0 0

Heir of Lancelot Flower, a severall adioyning more south, called Wedges: by the ffen west; and the said parcell of comon north - - - 50 0 0

Mr. Balham, a severall close adioyning more south: butting west upon the said fenn 18 2 0

Idem, another severall close adioyning more south: by the said ffen west and south 16 0 0

Other severall tenements there more north: by the river Neane on the south and east; and the comon ffen called the Middle on the north and west - - - 11 3 20

Dodington towne, a comon ffen adioyning more north, called the Middle: by the former tenements and river south and west; and Whites Fen east - - - 207 0 0

A severall there more west, called Pagdole: by the former ffen north and east; and the river south - - - 11 2 0

Dodington, a parcell of comon ffen there more west, called Hartings: by the twoe former peeces east; the river south, and Wittlesea grounds west - - - 57 0 0

Heire of Mr. Cooke, a close more north,

called Brownes Fenn: by the former and  
Middle Fen south, and Wittlesea ground  
west - - - - 75 8 0

Heire of Mr. Trece, late Olivers, a close  
adioyning more east: by the Middle south;  
and Whites Fen north and east - - 96 2 0

Mr. Moundford, a fen adioyning more to  
the north-east, called Whites Fen: by Gas-  
more in Wittlesea north; and Bisshops  
Dike east - - - - 455 0 0

Sir John Paton, a severall fen adioyning  
more east, called Great Bradnymore: by  
Wittlesea Dike north; and the river of Neane  
south and east - - - - 620 0 0

Dodington, a great comon fen there more  
south, called Dicksmore, alias the Smeeth:  
betwene the river and some small severalls  
west; the same river and Coppalderbank  
north; Ankuymore east; and Bezelings  
Lode south - - - - 1433 0 0

Reinolds, a severall there called Warner-  
hill: by the said Lode of Bezelings south;  
butting east upon the former fen; west upon  
the river - - - - 10 2 20

Rectory of Dodington, a severall adioyn-  
ing more north: bounded east and west as  
the former - - - - 3 0 0

Mr. Balam, a severall adioyning more  
north: by the comon fenn north; and bound-  
ed east and west as the former - - 8 0 0

A litle severall more north, called the  
Manger: by the river west; and the said  
comon fenn south, east, and north - 2 0 0

Certen severall tenements and yards more  
north, at Benwick: by the said river west;  
and the said comon fen south and east - 8 3 0



A litle triangled severall adioyning more  
north : by the river of Neane north ; and the  
said comon fenn on the west, and in part  
south - - - - - 4 0

Heire of Lancelot Flower, a severall close  
there more east, called Lillyholt : by the  
river of Neane north ; and the foresaid  
comon ffen called Dicksmore on the east,  
west, and south - - - - - 18 0

Dodington, a great ffen more to the north-  
east, called Ransonmore and Borowmore :  
by the river of Neane north and west ; Cop-  
palderbank south. This was all comon ;  
but now of late Sir J. Peiton hath imbanked  
in severalty a great part of Ransonmore,  
next Coppalderbank, to the quantity of  
3020 acres ; and the residue remains still  
comon. The whole contains - - - - - 4520 0

There is a severall on the west side of this  
fen, called Wisamouth : by the river south  
and west, and the fenn north and east - - - 19 0

Heire of Sir William Hinde, another se-  
verall there more to the north-east, called  
Little Bradnymore ; by the river west, and  
the ffen on all other parts - - - - - 110 3

Dodington, a comon ffen more east, being  
a part of Ransonmore : by the ffeildike on  
the north ; and the ffeilds of Dodington and  
other high grounds on the south and east.  
It extended west to the upper end of Coppal-  
derbank - - - - - 602 0

The same towne, another comon ffen more  
west, called Westfenn, beyond Great Crosse :  
by the river of Neane and Plantinwater in  
part east and south ; and Sternea north ;  
and Wittlesea grounds west - - - - - 3440 0

A severall called Drabble's Yard, at Wit-  
tlesea Dikesend: by Westfenn east, and  
west, and north - - - 3 3 0

Certen severalls there more north, called  
Netherholts': betwene Plantinwater south  
and east; and Westfenn north and west - 148 0 0

A litle severall there more north, called  
Newcot: by Plantinwater south and east;  
Sternea north; and Westfenn west - 3 0 0

Dodington, a comon ffen adioyning more  
east, called Whitemore, Westregrene, Mar-  
gery Wuses Greene, and Norwald Greene:  
betwene Hobbes river east; Norwald seve-  
ralls; and Plantinwater north; Plantinwater  
west; Edeneacroftes and other severalls  
south - - - 2010 0 0

Certen severalls there called Norwald  
ffennes, lying north and south: betwene  
Norwald Calcy east; and Whetmore west;  
batting north upon Hobbs river - 225 0 0

Certen other severalls at the south ends of  
the former, lying north and south: betwene  
Cranford Crofts west, and the comon fenn  
east and south - - - 154 0 0

Certen other severalls, called Granford  
Crofts, at the west side of the former, lying  
east and west: by Whitemore on the north,  
west, and south - - - 40 0 0

Another severall there, by the two former  
furlongs on the north and west; and the  
comon ffenn on the south and east - 33 0 0

A severall there more south, called Westre-  
close: compassed round about with the  
comon ffen, called in that place Westre  
Greene - - - 17 2 0

Other severalls there more south, called

Fen Howes, lying east and west; betwene a comon draine south; and the comon ffen east, west, and north - - 61 0 0

Other ffennes there more west, called Edeneacrofts: lying north and south, betwene the comon ffenn east, and Plantin water west; butting north and south upon the comon ffennes - - 98 0 0

Dodington, a comon ffen adioyning more south, by the river Neane, from Great Crosse towards March south; a lode or draine and Plantin water west - - 552 0 0

The same towne, a litle three square peece of comon adioyning more east: by the river of Neane south; and the draines north and east. This is called the Comon Middle 11 0 0

The same towne, a parcell of comon ffenn called Peashill Greene there adioyning more north: by a draine west, and in parte north and east; and diverse severalls south - 41 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen at March Bridge, called the Sumps: betwene the high waie at the bridge east; the river in part north; and diverse severalls on the west and south - - 144 0 0

Certen severalls there called the Holtes, lying north and south: betwene the former common south and east; Bordsmore west; and the river north - - 16 0 0

Thomas Shepperd, a severall croft there more south: by the said Sumpes north, east, and south; and Bordsmore west - 30 0 0

Heire of Doctor Ward, a litle croft there more east, called Smiths Croft: compassed about with the Sumps on all parts - 1 0 0

The Rectorie, a litle croft there more east

neare to the high way, with a tenement upon it, and compassed about with the Sumps as the former - - - 1 2 0

Diverse severall tenements and yards more east: betwene the river at March Bridge north; the high way west; a drove into Stowffen south; and Stowffen east - 28 0 0

Other severall tenements and holts more east: by the river and sewer north and west; a comon drove east, and Stowffen south - 11 2 0

Other severall yards more east: betwene two comon droves east and west; the river north, and the said ffen south - - 4 0 0

Other severalls more east, called Bagenie: by the said comon ffen south, east, and north; and the broad sewer west - - 10 0 0

Another severall more south, called Dearfeild: by the said comon ffen on everie side 6 0 0

Another severall more to the north-east: compassed about with the said comon ffen as the former - - - 8 0 0

Dodington, a comon ffen there more north, called Creekshyrne: by Hobbes River north; the river of Neane east and south, and Townesend Dike west - - 158 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffenne adioyning more west, called Powteshyrme: by Townesend Dike east, and the severall inclosed crofts south and west - - 146 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen called the Lowe: by Hobbes River west and south, and the severalls called Moundfords Landes east; and other severalls north - 154 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen more east: by the river of Neane south; Elme Leame east; Elme Fen north; Moundfords



Landes and Waldersea Bank west. This  
ffen is called Creekhyme - - - 462 0 0

Certen severall grounds adioyning more  
west, called Moundford's Lands, lying east  
and west: betwene the former ffenn east;  
the Low west; Hobbes river south; and  
other severalls north - - - 89 2 0

Other severalls there more north, lying  
north and south: betwene Creekeffen east,  
and Norwald Calcy west; butting south  
upon the former severalls and the Lowe;  
north upon Waldersea Bank - - - 208 0 0

Manea.

Freeman of Manea, a parcell of, pas-  
ture inclosed: by Westmore and Bialffen  
south and in part west; and the high grounds  
north - - - 17 2 0

Manea, a parcell of feild meadow ad-  
ioyning more west: at the skirt of Manea  
Feild: by Bialffen south, and Stonieffen on  
the north and west - - - 30 0 0

Wreght of Manea, a parcell of pasture  
inclosed, at the north-east corner of the  
former: by the high ground south; and  
Manea Ea west - - - 4 3 0

Robert Neale, four closes adioyning to-  
gether more north: by Manea Dames north;  
butting west upon the said Ea, next Stonie-  
ffen - - - 29 1 0

Idem. Two closes adioyning more east:  
betwene high ground south, and the said  
Dames north - - - 25 1 0

Sexten, a pightle adjoining more east:  
shorter north; by a pece of comon on the  
east side and the north end - - - 5 0 0

Manea hamlet, a parcell of comon ad-  
ioyning more east: by the Lode east; ex-

tending north to the corner of Manea  
Dames - - - - - 4 2 0

Bird of Manea, two parcells inclosed at  
the south-east end of the former; by the  
high ground south; and the Lode east - 5 1 0

Manea hamlet, a ffen there more north,  
called the Dames: betwene Dodington  
grounds west; Westmore east; and the  
former severalls of Robert Neales south - 689 0 0

Note that Ma-  
nea is of Co-  
venie parish:  
so these are to  
be added to Co-  
venie, fo.[191.]

Elme Towne hath a comon ffen lying be-  
twene Elme Leame on the east; Creekffen  
in Dodington south; and Coldham ffen west  
and north - - - - - 706 0 0

Elme.

Wisbech Towne, a comon ffen at Guy-  
hyrne: by Plantinwater on the south and  
east; and a new cut from Newcott to Guy-  
hirne on the north-west - - - - - 990 0 0

Wisbech.

The same towne, another comon ffen on  
the other side of that new cut: by the  
Leame, from Stranground north; and Wit-  
tlesea ground west; and Sternea in part  
south; extending east with a gory point to  
Guyhirne - - - - - 490 0 0

The same towne, another comon called  
the Highffen; by the river from Cloughcrosse  
to Guyhirne on the east; the Leame south;  
Knardike west; and the Wride north - 4532 0 0

The same towne, another comon ffen  
adioyning more north: by the said river  
east; the Wride south; Sutton ffen west;  
Throcknoll and Crowland river north - 1540 0 0

A severall ffen at Cloughs Crosse, called  
Throcknoll: by the river of Crowland north  
and east; and the former ffen Wisbech south  
and west - - - - - 224 0 0

Throcknoll.

Sutton towne, in Holland, a comon ffenn: Sutton.



	lying between Golddike west; the Wride or Barstreame; Wisbech Fenn east; and Crowland River and Banke north	- 880 0 0
Thornea.	The Earle of Bedford; all Thornea ffennes, being devided into diverse parcells, but lying altogether betwene Crowland River north; Golddike and Knardike east; Wit-tlesea ground south, and Cattleswater west, and contains	- 16069 0 0
Crowland.	Crowland Towne, a comon ffen on the south side of the towne at Goodlucks Crosse: betwene the river from Deeping to Crowland, and the yards of diverse tenements in Crowland on the north: the river from Crowland to Cloughs Crosse in part and Cattleswater in part east; Peterborough Fennes south and west	- 1228 0 0
	The same towne, a narrow ffenn more north: betwene Welland on the east; and Deeping Fen Bank west; the Ferry south; and extending north with a gory point to Whitehouse	- 515 0 0
	The same towne, a narrower ffen more west at the Ferry; betwene the said river from Deeping south, and Deeping Bank to Crowland Fery north; butting west upon Deeping ground at the Crosse in Ea	- 217 0 0
Peterborow.	Peterborow, a ffen near Crowland called the Four Hundred Acres, betwene Crowland Fen north and Borow Great Fen west and south: butting east with a narrow end upon Cattleswater at Finfit Crosse	- 858 0 0
	The same towne, a ffen adioyning more south, called Borow Great Fen: betwene the former, and the bank and river from thence to Waldram Hall north: severall	

grounds of Peakirk and Ganton west; Northam bank and diverse severalls and high grounds south; Northam and Singlesole grounds, and part of Catteswater at Finet Crosse east - - - 6948 0 0

A ferm house called Singlepole, with severall grounds adioyning: betwene the former fen west and north; Catteswater east; and Northam grounds south - 184 2 0

A severall belonging to Northam ferme adioyning more south: by the said Great Fen west; Catteswater east, and Northam Lode south - - - 116 0 0

Three litle severalls belonging to Northam lying together: betwene the dike coming from Singlepole west; Northam Lode north; and Catteswater east - - - 14 1 0

Another parcell of the severalls of Northam adioyning, more west: by the said dike east; Northam Lode north; and the close called Cranmore west - - - 27 0 0

Another parcell of those severalls more south, lying in length by Cranmore west, with a gory point at the south end: by the high grounds north, east, and south - 44 0 0

Another severall of Northam, inclosed in two parts, and adioyning, more west, called Cranmore, neare to the ferme house: by the two former east; the high ground south and west; and the said lode north -  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 40 \text{ } 0 \text{ } 0 \\ \text{the north pte.} \end{array} \right.$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 46 \text{ } 0 \text{ } 0 \\ \text{the south pte.} \end{array} \right.$

A litle severall more east: by one of the foresaid three litle severalls on the north; Catteswater east, and the high ground west - 5 2 20

Another parcell of a severall inclosed adioyning more south; bounded east and west as the former - - - 16 2 0

Another broad severall adioyning more south, and bounded east and west as the former . - - - 36 0 0

A litle narrow severall adioyning more south, and bounded east and west as the former - - - - 2 3 0

Another litle narrow severall adioyning more south, and bounded east and west as before - - - - 2 3 0

Auother litle severall adioyning more south: bounded east and west as before - 10 0 0

A severall adioyning more east, by Cattewater east - - - - 28 2 0

Twoe parcells of wet ground on the north, west of the former - - - - 4 3 0

A parcell of wet ground more south: by the south-west part of the severall - 9 0 0

A severall adioyning more south: by Catswater east and south - - - 26 2 0

A parcell at Barbridge, by the former and Catswater east - - - - 21 2 0

A severall more south at Thornea Crosse: between Catswater and the high ground - 21 1 0

Three severalls belonging to Oxny house, lying together by the Ingin bank -  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 49\ 2\ 0 \text{ by the lode.} \\ 9\ 3\ 0 \text{ by the ingin.} \\ 48\ 3\ 0 \text{ the third.} \end{array} \right.$

Two parcells of ground more west, neare the house - - - - 12 0 0

A pece of Oxnea ground more north, at the Ingin - - - - 15 0 0

A three square severall beyond Oxnea: by Borow litle ffen south, and a lane leading to Eyerly comon west - - - 7 3 0

A severall more north, betwene the lane west and high ground east - - - 20 0 0

A severall more west: by the lane east,  
and high ground west - - 21 1 0

A comon more north, called High Eggerby  
comon: betwene the high ground east,  
south, and west - - - 203 3 0

A three square severall of Ibery more  
east: by the high ground east; the comon  
south and north-west - - - 12 0 0

A parcell at the north end of the former:  
by the high ground east, and the comon  
west - - - - 3 0 0

Certen small severalls of Ey lying toge-  
ther: by the said comon south and west,  
and the high ground north and east - 14 0 0

Certen other small severalls of Ey more  
north beyond the street and chappell: be-  
twene the end of the common that leadeth  
from Ey to Northam on the east; and Ey  
Lodes end on the west; butting north upon  
the lode - - - - 9 0 0

Thre other severalls of Ey adioyning  
more north: betwene the lodes east and  
west; and butting north and south upon  
those loades; whereof that on the west con-  
tains - - - - 9 0 0

That in the middle contains - 4 1 0

That on the east contains - 4 0 0

Peterborow, a comon ffen more south,  
called Borowe Litle Fen: betwene Oxny  
Lode and Oxny grounds north; the high  
grounds west; and the river called Muscot  
Water east and south - - 888 0 0

Borowffen  
P'va.

The Countisse of Westmorland, a severall  
neare Peterborow bridge: by the river Neane  
on the south-west; Muscot water north; an

InStanggrounde.

old lode against Stanground Church east; ..  
and a new cutt south - - - 51 0

The same Countisse, other grounds ad-  
ioining more east: by the said lode west;  
Muscot water north; Northea in Wittlesea  
east; and the new cutt south - - 360 2

The same Countisse, a litle triangled peece  
more west: by the foresaid old lode east;  
the new cutt north; and the river Neane on  
the south-west - - - 5 1

The same Countisse, other ground adioyn-  
ing more east: by the new cutt north; the  
said lode and river west; and the leame  
south, with a gory point at the east end - 208 2

The same Countisse, another triangle  
pece adioyning more south: by the Leame  
north; a row of trees with a doobble ditch  
east; and the river Neane on the south-  
west - - - 17 2

The same Countisse, other grounds ad-  
ioyning more east: by the Leame on the  
north; Bradley Fen east; the Musts in  
Wittlesea on the south-east; and the Neane  
on the south-west - - - 397 2

In Wittlesea.  
Bradby Fen. Sir Will'm Dove, a ffen adioyning more  
east, called Bradby Fen: by the Musts afore-  
said south; the Leame north; and Wittle-  
sea grounds east - - - 85 0

Northea. The towne of Wittlesea hath a mowffen  
there more north, called Northea: betwene  
Muscot water and Stanground ground west;  
the Leame south; North Fen and the  
Priors Fennes east; and Thornea dike at  
Thornea Crosse north - - 550 0

In this the Earle of Bedford hath a dole of  
fifteen acres on the north side: by Thornea

dike north, and Willow hall east. Stand-ground men have a p'te on the west side over against the Willow Row, a furlong deep into the ffen, containing 120 acres. The tenants of Wittlesea have all the west copie. And the whole ground, after the swap is had of is comon to the towne of Wittlesea only. The new cutt crosseth over this ffen neare to the south end.

Twoe severall parcells of ground there more east, in Northmore, neare Bites Lake. They are bounded at both ends with dole ffens: and ly betwene Northmore both on the east and west, butting north upon the more; and extends south somewhat beyond the Leame. That over the west is -

11 3 20  
accounted 16 ac.

The other on the east is - - { 21 3 20  
accounted 32 a.

The new cutt crosseth over the midst of these peeces.

The towne of Wittlesea, a common ffen adioyning more north and east, called Northmore: betwene Northea west, Priours Fennes north; Basuymore east; and the Leame south. It is devided by the new cutt into two parts, whereof the north part contains - - - - 700 0 0

The south part contains - - - - 300 0 0

A messuage with some severall grounds adioyning more north, called Willowhall (being part of the grounds called the Priours Fennes): by the former ffen south; Northea west; Thornea dike east, and other groundes of the Priours east - - - 310 3 20

Another severall (part of the said Priours)

Northmore.  
This 1000  
acres is now  
allowed to the  
tenants in se-  
verall.

Willowhall.

Priour's fennes.



	adioyning more east: by Northmore on the south - - -	239	0	0
	Another litle severall (part also of Priours) adioyning more east: butting south upon Northmore - - -	39	0	0
	Another severall (part also of Priours) between the two former south, and Thornea dike north - - -	298	0	0
	Another severall (the residue of Priours): by the two former west; butting south upon Northmore; north upon Thornea dike	134	0	0
Basinmore.	The Lords of the Manor of Wittlessea, a severall ffen adioyning more east, called Basuymore: betwene the former severall and Northmore on the west, and Knardike on the east; Thornea dike north, and the Leame south. This ffen is devided into four parts; and the new cutt runneth through all those parts. The first part next Northmore - - -	779	0	0
	The second part, more east - - -	776	0	0
	The third part, more east - - -	856	0	0
	The fourth part, more east, next Knardike	864	0	0
The Middle.	The towne of Wittlessea, a comon pasture called the Middle: betwene the Leame north, and Southlake alias Sterne south; the Ferydike in part west; and Wisbich Fen east -	700	0	0
Aldersholt.	The Lords, a severall adioyning more west, called Aldersholt: by the former east and north; and Southlake south -	9	0	0
	Wittlessea towne, a comon adioyning more west: betwene Eastree lake on both sides of Lipnea gravell, and the said gravell south: the ffery house, and the high grounds and feilds of Eastree north; and the tenants in-			

closed holts on the west; the east part hereof being called the South Pingles - 147 0 0

The tenants have seven severall holts lying together and adioyning more west, and two single holts beyond them. They all but south upon Eastree lake, and north upon Eastree feild - - - 4 0 0

The towne of Wittlesea, two parcells of comon: betwene the seven holts on the east, and the ninth holt on the west; Eastree lake south; and the ffeild north - - - 4 0 0

The same towne, a comon adioyning more west Fenlotts, extending by Eastree lake and Wittlesea dike on the south to Turning tree gravell: by Eastree feild, and the last of the foresaid holts east; Latterfal feild and other severalls on the north and west - 131 0 0

Roger Wiseman, a litle holt inclosed, called Freman's Acre, neare to the south-east corner of the severall called Fenlot setts, and compassed round about with the former common - - - 0 2 0

A severall inclosed called Fenlot sett: by the foresaid comon on the east and south, and in part west, and Graies Close north; hereof Mr. George Glapthorne a third part, and the Rectory of Saint Mary two thirds 42 0 0

A close of wood and pasture adioyning more north, called Graies Close: by the comon half acre north, and the Lords De-means west. This belongs to four tenants 19 0 0

A parcell of ground at the east end of the former: by the inclosed holts east, and the comon half acre north - - - 3 3 0

The tenants, severall small severall holts

	adioyning more east: by the comon lane east, and the comon half acre north	-	1	1	20
Comon Half Acre.	Wittlesea towne, a long narrow parcell adioyning more north, called the Comon Half Acre: by Graies Close in part south; butting east upon the lane	-	1	1	10
Eastre Holtes.	The tenants, eleven severall holts adioyning more north: by Eastree Calcy north, and the said lane east	-	4	0	20
	Wittlesea towne, a parcell of ffeilds comon more north and east: by the De-means called Feldale north and west; and Eastree feild south, and in parte east	-	19	1	0
	Wittlesea, a small square parcell of comon: by the end of the comon half acre and the holts east; Graies close south; and the Calcy north	-	2	0	20
Logdes Grasse.	The Lordes, a close more south: betwene Graies Close on the east, and the ffeild on the west, containing six acres, whereof the east part is wet ground	-	3	0	0
	The Lords, another close adioyning more south: betwene the ffeild in part north and south, butting west upon the ffeild, east upon Fenlot setts; it contains 12 acres, whereof is wet ground	-	8	2	0
Minnycroft Well.	Wittlesea, a parcell of comon more west at Minnycroft Well: betwene Turning tree gravell and Wittlesea dike on the south and west; and the ffeilds and high grounds on the east and north. It is ffeild comon	-	44	3	0
	The tenants have six severall tenements and holts more west beyond Berystred Close: by Wittlesea dike east; the streets at the bridge north and west; and the ffeen south;				

they contain 3 ac. 2 r. dim. whereof the greater part wett - - -

1 3 20

The tenants have there more west five other tenements and holts, by the streets east and north, and the fen south. They contain 4 ac. 1 r. dim. whereof the greater part wett - - -

2 1 20

The Lords, a peece of ground inclosed on the south side of Wittlesea dike over against the Berysted: betwene the comon fen on the east, south, and west - - -

50 1 0

The same Lords, a parcell of ground left out at the north end of the said close: betwene the close and Wittlesea dyke - - -

1 3 20

The heire of Robert Beale holds by copie certes inclosed grounds of pasture and wood at Kingsdelf gravell, called Carters Doles: compassed about with the comon fen on every side - - -

55 0 0

Carter's Doles.

Wittlesea, a peece of ffeild comon more to the north-west, called Lodehyrne: by Kingsdelf gravell east; Church ffeild north; the way at Feildendbridge west; and Wittlesea dike south - - -

73 2 0

Lodehyrne.

The same towne, another peece of ffeild comon there more east: by the said gravell west; Church feild north; Wittlesea dike south; and it extends east betwene the dike and Mr. Glapthornes inclosures to Long Gravell - - -

74 0 0

Mr. George Glapthorne, three closes called Longsneut and Hollcroft Closes: by the said comon south and west; Church ffeild and other inclosures north; and Long gravell east; containing 20 acres Dim. whereof in wet ground - - -

8 3 0

Longsneut.  
Hollcroft Closes.

	Wittlesea Towne, a parcell of ground more to the north-west : by the Leame north, butting west upon Bradly fen; east upon Northea gravell. It is a part of Northea Doles	4	2	0
	Rectorye of St. Maries, a severall adioyning more south, called the Tythe Grasse: by Bradbyffen west	19	1	0
Pfantams.	The tenants holde by copie a pece adioyning more south, called Ffenthams : by Bradby fen and the Musts west; it is comof with Church feild	41	0	0
	The Lords, a part of close there adioyning more south : by the dry part thereof east, and the Musts west	2	3	0
	The Lords, a part of another close adioyning more south : by the waie at Ffeild End Bridge south, and the Musts west	3	3	0
The Musts.	The Lords, certen grounds there adioyning more west called the Musts : betwene Stangroun ground west; Bradby fen north; the three former groundes east; and Wittlesea dike south. It is devided into fourteen closes : whereof four lying on the south side are called Blea Musts, and contain	73	0	0
	The other ten are called Rough Musts, and contain	164	3	35
	Wittlesea towne, a parcell of ffeild comon more to the north east : betwene the Leame north and the ffeild south; Northea gravell west; and Stonehal gravell east	30	0	0
	The same towne, another parcell of ffeild comon adioyning more east: betwene Stonehalfeild and the high ground south; the Leame north; Stonehal gravell west; and the Delfdike east	96	2	0

A severall tenement and holt on the west of Delfdyke, called Goosewillowrow : compassed with the foresaid comon on every side - - - - - 1 2 15

Goosewillow  
Row.

Wittlesea, a pece of feild comon more east : betwene Delfdyke west and the Snowt east; the Leame north; and Bassenhallea feild south - - - - - 43 0 0

The Lords, a pece adioyning more east, called Bassenhallea Snout : by the high ground south and east, and the Leame north 62 2 0

Bassenhallea.

The Lords, a great severall more east, called by the names of Feldale, Horscroft, and Lipnea Lowes : betwene the feild and feild comon on the west; Eastree calcy and feild and feild comon and Lipnea Hards south; the fferydyke at Preisthouse east; the hards of Lipnea holt and the Leame north. The tenants have within this peece 2 acres - - - - - 680 0 0

Feldale.  
Horscroft.  
Lipnea Lowes.

The Lordes, a pece adioyning more north, being parcell of Lipnea holt : betwene the Hards of the holt south; the Leame north; Horscroft bank west; and a broad watering east - - - - - 8 1 0

The Lords, another peece more east, parcell of the said holt : betwene the Hards south; the Leame north; the fferydyke east; and the said broad watering west - - - - - 59 0 0

A copyhold tenement and yard more south called Priests house : by the fferyditch north and west : cont. 2 acres, whereof in wet ground - - - - - 1 2 0

Priestshouse.

The Lords, a parcell adioyning more south and west : by the comon called South Pingles south - - - - - 1 2 20



	The Lords, a parcell more west in the close next to the fferry house : by the comon east ; and their own ground south, west, and north - - - -	2	2	0
Hereof the tenants are allowed in severalty 1823 acres Eastreffen.	Wittlesea towne, a great comon ffen, called Eastree ffen : by south lake and Eastree lake on the north and west : Wittlesea dike south ; West ffen close and Dodington groundes east - - -	3636	0	0
	The said towne, a parcell of comon ffen adioyning more east : by West ffen in Dodington east ; butting south upon West fen close, north upon the Broads in Sternea -	940	0	0
Westfen Close, in Dodington.	Sir Robert Bevills heire, a close called West Fen close, at the south ende of the former : by Dodington grounds east and south - - - -	108	0	0
Hereof the tenants are allowed in severalty 3413 ac. dim. Glasmore, Middlemore, Hegcrofts, the Brecks, Thickfen.	Wittlesea towne, a great comon ffen there more to the south-west, called by diverse names in diverse places : viz. Glasmore, Middlemore, Flegcrofts, the Brecks and Thickfen. It lieth betwene Wittlesea dike on the east and north ; Dodington grounds, the river Neame, and Ramsay grounds on the south ; and Delf dike, alias Swords delf, on the west or south-west -	10526	0	0
Horsea, in Stanground.	A severall of the ferme called Horsea, more west, neare to the fferm house : by the comon ffen of Ffasset south ; and Wittlesea ground east and Horsea high ground north - - - -	80	0	0
	The same fferme, another severall at the west end of the former : by the said comon ffen south, and the river Neane up to Horsea bridge west - - -	14	1	0
Milby, in Fasset.	A severall meadow more south called			

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Milby: by the river Neane north; and the said comon ffen of Fasset south and east -	33	3	0	
Another severall medow adioyning more west, called Newmedowe: by the said comon ffen south; and the river north and west - - - -	43	3	0	New Meadow in Fasset.
A parcell of comon more north at Horsybrig: by the river east; the roadway at the bridge south; and the high ground north and west - - - -	11	0	0	This is the Erie of Westmorland's severall.
A severall there more south, called Great Laverock: betwene the high ground west; the river south and east; and extending north with a gory point to Horsy bridge -	42	1	20	Laverock Mag' in Stanground.
A severall adioyning more west, called Little Laverock: by the high ground in part north; and the river south - - - -	10	3	0	Laverock P'va in Stanground.
Fasset towne, a parcell of comon adioyning more west: by the high ground north and west; the river and some severall yards of Ffasset east and south - - - -	70	0	0	Fasset. This is the Com'on of Stanground.
The same towne, another narrow comon more south, beyond the said yards: betwene the river east, and high ground west; the said yards north, and Pocket Holme south	50	0	0	This is severall Fen of Fasset.
A severall close called Pocketholme adioyning more south; by the river east, and the high ground west - - - -	6	3	0	Pocketholme.
A narrow parcell of comon adioyning there more to the south-west: betwene the river on the south-east; and the high ground on the north-west: it extendeth westward to Yaxly townes end - - - -	15	0	0	
Yaxly towne, a little triangled comon at the townesend, compassed about with the lodes, and a bridge over into it -	6	3	0	Yaxly.

A tenement and yard there adioyning more west: by the lode falling to Trindle meare on the south-west - - 4 2 0

Twoe severall holtes more west, about the middle of the next ffen: by the said ffen east, west, and south; and butting north upon the yards ends: that on the east contains - - - 1 0 0

The other on the west contains - 1 2 0

Five small severall pightells more west in the next ffen: betwen the part on ditch east; the ffen south and west; and the yards and high grounds north; whereof the first being on the east contains - 0 1 20

The second more west contains - 1 3 0

The third more west contains - 3 3 0

The fourth more west contains - 4 3 20

The fifth by the ffen west contains - 2 2 0

Yaxly, a comon ffen adioyning more south: by another comon ffen east; the high ground west; and Stilton lode in part south - - - 630 0 0

A severall triangle close at the south-west corner of the former ffen: by Mr. Probyes ground south: wherein there is on the north part in wet ground - - - 2 3 0

And in the south-west corner in wet ground - - - 2 2 0

The parcell of severall meadow ground adioyning more west, by the high grounds north, west, and south - - 9 1 20

Mr. Proby, a severall medow adioyning more south: by Stilton ffen in part south, butting east upon Stilton lode, west upon the high ground - - - 19 3 0

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Twoe other short and severall severalls  
 adioyning more south: by the former on the  
 north side and at the west end, and Stilton  
 ffen on the south side; and Stilton lode at  
 the east end

1 3 25  
 viz.  
 1 0 10 the east  
 0 3 15 the west.

Yaxly, a comon ffen there more east: by the  
 former comon ffen west; Stilton lode south;  
 Trindle meare and Yaxlie lode east; and  
 the yards of the tenements in Yaxlye north

630 0 0

Twoe severall parcells of ground more  
 north-east: betwene Trindle meare west and  
 Wittlesea meare east; whereof that on the  
 west contains

5 0 0

The other more east contains

15 2 20

Yaxly, another comon ffen there more  
 north: betwene Trindle meare and Yaxlie  
 lode west and Neane east, and Wittlesea  
 meare south

630 0 0

A severall adioyning at the north corner  
 of the former, at Rokes Home: by the lode  
 north and Neane east

39 2 0

Conquest Dike.

The Countisse of Westmorland, certen  
 severalls there more east, on both sides of  
 Conquest dike: by Neane north and west,  
 and Wittlesea meare in part south

479 0 0

Twoe litle severall pightle at the north  
 point of the former ground, at Fasset  
 bridge: by Neane west, and Fasset ffen  
 north and east

4 3 5  
 viz.  
 0 3 20 south.  
 3 3 25 north.

The said Countisse, a close at the south  
 end of the former ground: by Wittlesea  
 meare south, and Fasset ffen north

72 2 0

The said Countisse, another close adioyn-  
 ing more east: by the said ffen north and  
 east, and the meare north

85 2 20

Fasset Towne, a comon ffen adioyning

Fasset.

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more north and east: by the meare and the new draine south; Horsea ground, Fasset, Mowffen, and Delfdike north and east - 2050 0 0

The same towne, a part of the former ffen more south: betwene the said new draine north and Smaldike south; being cut of from the former by the said new draine - 138 0 0

The same towne, a mowffen more north: by the former great ffen south and west; and Delfdike on the north-east - 538 1 0

Ramsey  
Upper Steddes.

A severall ferme more south, (within Ramsy bounds), called the Upper Steddes, with a tenement upon it: by Delfdike east; Smaldike north; and Ramsy ffen west - 24 0 0

Neathersteds.

Another severall ferme there adioyning more south, with a tenement upon it, called the Neathersteds: by Delf dike east, and Ramsy ffen south and west - 66 0 0

Middlemore.

Ramsea, a great comon ffen there adioyning: by the two former fermes and delf dike east: Neane and Ogmear south; Neane and the severalls called Bagdole and Dawntre west; and Smaldike north - 3443 0 0

Bagdole.

Certen severalls called Bagdole more west, at the south-east corner of Wittlesea meare: by the former ffen east; Dawntree north; and Neane south and west - 84 0 0

Dawntre.

Three parcells of severall there adioyning more north, with a dwelling-house called Dawntree: by Wittlesea meare west; the former comon ffen east; and Smaldike north - 75 1 0

Mr. Beale, a severall more north, with a stone crosse upon it: by Smaldyke south;

Fasset ffen east; and the meare north and west - - - - 12 0 0

Holme towne, a comon ffen, called Holme Fen more south and west: by Wittlessea meare north; Neane and Ugmeare east; Holm Lodes on the south and west - 2517 2 0

Another comon ffen more west at Holme townes end: betwene Holme Lode and the high grounds south; the high grounds also west; and Cawketdike in part north; and Wittlessea meare east - - - 472 2 0

Certen severall pightles at the north-west corner of the former ffen: by the ffen south; butting west upon the high ground. They are in number six, whereof the first

next the ffen contains - - - 1 2 20

The second - - - 1 2 20

The third - - - 1 2 20

The fourth - - - 1 2 20

The fifth - - - 1 2 20

The sixth, next Cawket dike north - 1 2 20

A severall adioyning more east: by Cawket dike north - - - 5 2 30

Another adioyning more east: by the said dike north - - - 7 1 20

Another adioyning more east: by the said dike north - - - 8 2 20

Another adioyning more south: by the three former north, and the ffen south - 30 2 0

Another adioyning more east: by the said ffen south and east - - 15 1 0

Another severall adioyning more north: by Cawket dike north; butting east upon the ffen - - - 18 3 0

Stilton towne, a comon ffen adioyning Stilton.



	more north: by Stilton Lode north; the high grounds west; Cawket dike south, and Wittlesea meare east - - -	472	2	0
Munks.	A severall ffen more south, called Munks: betwene Holme lode north; Hignie grounds east; and Conington grounds south and west	277	0	0
Conington.	Sir Thomas Cotton, certen severall grounds of Conington adioyning more east: by Conington lode north; the high grounds west; and a drove waie in his own ground south - - -	168	0	0
	Idem, other grounds adioyning more south: by another drove in his own ground south, and the high ground west -	63	1	0
	Idem, other grounds adioyning more south: by the high grounds and Munks lodes end south - - -	32	2	0
	Idem, other ground more south: by the high grounds north and west; and Sautre Fen south - - -	116	0	0
	Idem, a ffen adioyning more east: by all his former grounds west; Munks north, and Hignoe grounds east - - -	435	2	0
Sautre.	Sautrie towne, a comon ffen adioyning more south: betwene Hignie and Walton grounds east; the high groundes west and in part south - - -	618	0	
	A three cornered severall of Sautree adioyning more south: by the high grounds south and west - - -	14	2	
	Another severall of Sautree adioyning more east: by the former ffenn north and west; the high ground south; and Hignee lodes end east - - -	62	2	
Walton.	Mr. Marshall, a severall of Walton more			

to the south-east: betwene the high grounds  
west, south, and east - - - 56 1 20

Idem, another severall of Walton adioyn-  
ing more north: by Sautree ffen west; and  
Hignie grounds north, and in part east - 89 2 0

Hignie.

Hignie fferme, a fen imbanked adioyning  
more north: betwene Hignie house and  
high ground east and part south, and Hignie  
lode west - - - 199 0 0

The same fferme, other severalls adioyn-  
ing more north: betwene the lode next  
Munkes on the west, and the lode next  
Ramsy ffen east; and Holme lode north - 360 0 0

The same fferme, other severalls adioyning  
more south: betwene the high ground west,  
and the lode next to Ramsy ground east 70 1 0

The same fferme, an aldercar adioyning  
more south: by the high ground south and  
west; and Ramsy ground east - 20 1 0

The same fferme, a litle severall more  
south, at the corner of the Hards: by the  
Hards north and west; and Ramsy ffen  
south and east - - - 3 2 0

Ramsy, a comon ffen (being a turfen) ad-  
ioyning more east: by Hignie grounds west;  
the high grounds south; and Brickmeare.

Ramsye.

Neane and Ugmeare north - - - 1402 0 0

A litle severall at the south end of the  
former: by the ffen south and east; and the  
high ground north and west - - 8 1 20

Ramsy, another comon turffen more  
east: by the former turffen west; and the  
high grounds south and east - 838 2 20

A litle severall at the south-east corner of  
the former; by the high ground east, west,  
and south - - - 9 2 0

Ramsy, another comon ffen more north: by the two former turffennes on the south and west; and extends eastward neare to Ramsy towne, betwene the high ground south and a lode north - - 1305

The same towne, another comon ffen adioyning more north: by Ugmeare and the turffen west; the same meare and Neane north; and Billode east - - 1139

The same towne, another comon ffen three square adioyning more east: by Ramsy lode east; Neane and Newdike north; and Billode on the south-west - - 191

The same towne, another comon ffen adioyning more north: by Neane north and west; and Ramsy lode east - - 55

Stockin.

The same towne, another comon ffen more south, called Stockin: by Ramsy lode west; the inclosures and high grounds south and east; great Rayhill in part north - - 284

A small severall more east: by the former ffen west, and the high ground east; and the inclosed grounds north and south - - 1

Another severall adioyning more north inclosed: by the ffen west; and the inclosed high grounds north and east - - 6

Ramsy, other comon ffen ground more north at Rayhills: by Stockin, Rayhills and other ground south; Ramsy lode west; Neane north; Bodsy hards and Bodsy lode east - - 63

Wigginmore.

The same towne, a comon ffen called Wigginmore, adioyning more east: by Neane and Ramsy meare north; the high grounds south; and Bodsy lode west, with a gorie point at the east end - - 107



The same town, a comon ffen more north:  
by Neane south; the Delfdike west; Wit-  
tlesea ffen and Beauperlake north; and  
Ramsy meare east - 188 0 0

Twø severalls lying together more east:  
betwene Neane south, and Wittlesea ffennes  
east, west, and north; whereof that on the  
west - 10 1 20

The other more east - 4 1 0

Three other severalls there more south: by  
Neane north and west: Ramsy meare south;  
and Ramsy ffenn east; whereof the first,  
with a bank and broad ditch next the ffen 90 3 20

The middlemost - 11 1 0

The outmost westward: by the meare  
south; with a tenement upon it - 9 1 0

Ramsy, a part of a comon ffen called  
Wigginmore, more south: by Ramsy meare  
north; the high grounds west; Warkerklode  
east; and Ramsy Parke north - 325 1 20

Sir Oliver Cromwell, a severall there ad-  
ioyning, called Abbot's Pingle: by the said  
lode west; the comon ffenn north and east;  
and the parke south - 80 0 0

Idem, the wet ground within his parke  
adioyning more south: by the comon ffen  
on the east, and in part south; and the  
high grounds within the parke on the north  
and west, and in part likewise south - 230 2 0

Diverse severalls more south: betwene  
the park lane, in part north: Ramsy lodes  
on the west and south: and the comon  
ffen east - 77 1 20

A ffen there more south, called Bery  
mowffen: betwene the comon ffen of Ramsy

Bears.

Hilks.

Wigginmore.  
Sir Ol. Crom-  
well's Sewer.

Abbot's Pingle.

Berymow ffen.

east and south; high Northea and the lode  
west - - - - 135 3 0

Ramsy, a litle ffen more west, called high  
High Northea. Northea, a triangled ground: by the former  
east; and the lodes north and south-west - 33 0 0

The same towne, a comon ffen adioyning  
more south: by Berry mowffen aforesaid  
east; a litle severall south; and the high  
ground west - - - 43 2 0

A narrow severall adioyning more south:  
by the comon ffen south; butting east upon  
the said comon ffen; west upon the high  
ground - - - - 2 0 0

A litle parcell of severall there more  
north: betwene the former ffen north and  
east; and the high ground south and west 0 3 0


Ramsy, a parcell of comon more north:  
betwene the comon ffen aforesaid south and  
east; and the high grounds west - 18 1 0

A severall inclosed there more north: by  
the former south and west; the lode against  
High Northea east - - - 4 2 0

A severall adioyning at the north-west  
corner of the former: by the lode west;  
and the load north - - - 3 1 0

Another severall pightle adioyning more  
south: by the said lode west; and a tri-  
angled pightle south - - - 3 0 0

Another severall pightle adioyning more  
east: by the said triangle pightle west; and  
a pightle of high ground east - - 3 0 20

Two severalls about a mile farther south-  
ward, in the comon ffen of Ramsy: lying  
together betwene the said ffen on the north,  
east, and south, and the high ground west 22 1 



Ramsye and Warboyse and the Soken of Somersham, a great continent of ffenground undivided: it extends north to the river of Neane; somewhat narrow betwene Ramsy meare west and Dodington ffen, called Pulverson east; then spreading wider eastward to Saint Bennets Crosse, betwene the Westwater from that Crosse to Craftycote on the east; the bank from Craftycote to the ground, and the high ground of the Soken on the south; the grounds of Warboyse and Ramsy up to Ramsy meare west - 10700 0 0

Ramsye, Warbois, the Soken Somersham.

A severall of the fferme called Rowea in Fenton, at the side of the former great fenn: betwene the tenement and high ground of that fferme on the south, and the former great ffen on the east and north and in part west - 43 0 0

A parcell of comon adioyning more west in Fenton: betwene twoe calcies leading from the high ground to the said fferme on the north and south and in part east; and the high ground of Fenton west - 77 0 0

The Soken of Somersham, a comon ffen more south: betwene Craftycote bank north: Somersham ffeilds west; Somersham lode south; and the Westwater east - 750 0 0

The Soken, another comon ffen adioyning more south: by the said lode north; the Soken high grounds west; the new river south, and the Westwater east - 774 0 0

A severall close in the midst of this ffen, called Come Homes, compassed round about with the comon ffen - 66 0 0

The Soken, another parcell of comon ffen



	beyond the newe river: betwene the said river north; the Calcy, from Erith bridge to the new fence west; and the Westwater on the south and east - - -	80 0 0
Waterbeach.	Waterbeach, in Cambridgeshire, a comon fen: by the river of Grant east; a tenement by the water side, called the Brewhouse, south; the high ground west; and the Joist fen north - - -	466 0 0
	The same towne, a large fen adioyning more north, called the Joist fen: by Strettham grounds north; and the river, and Wickin grounds east - - -	2211 0
	The same towne, a mowfen adioyning more west: by Cottenham lode west; and Chittering ditch north - - -	400 0
	Item, other wet groundes in the severalls more south - - -	147 0
	Item, other wet ground adioyning, in a comon more south - - -	150 0
Biallfen.	A large fen within the Isle of Ely, called Biallfen (wherin Witchmam and Covenie and other townes doe intercom'): it lieth betwene Oxwillowlode on the east; Manea and Dodington grounds north; Chartresse grounds, and Witham mede land and Mepale galfen on the west; Covenie lode, and Covenie dames south. It is nowe devided by the new river into two parts; whereof that on the south side contains - - -	2300 0
	The other on the north side contains - - -	2885 0
Wiuworth.	Winworth towne hath a comon fen, called the Staple; lying betwene Sutton ffenn ground west; the high ground north and east; and Haddenham small fen south - - -	54 0

Sum totall of these former			
leaves is	-	-	- 311871 1 30
Item	-	-	- 797 0 0
<hr/>			
Total	-	-	- 312668 1 30
<hr/>			

Truly surveied by me, William Hayward: as I am ready to testify upon oath.

14 June, 1636.

This booke was delivered in upon oathe unto us the daye and yeare above written, by William Hayward, Esq. Surveyor, conteyning a Survey made by him of the ffennes and surrounded grounds, called the Greate Levell, lying within the Counties of Lincoln, North'ton, Camb', Hunt', Norff', Suff', and the Isle of Elye, and is donne in pursuance of the Lawe of Sewers, called Linne Lawe, bearing date the 13th daye of Januarye, An<sup>o</sup> 6to. Carol. Regis.

OL. ST. JOHN  
 ROB. ST. JOHN  
 BEN. ST. JOHN  
 HAMON LE STRANGE  
 ROBERT BELL  
 THOMAS DERHAM  
 MYLES SANDYS  
 ROBERT PEYTON.

TALBOT PEPYS  
 MARCK BUCKWORTH.

**A TABLE OF THE TOWNES FORMERLY MENTIONED IN THE BOOKE, AND OF SOME OTHER CHIEF FFENNES.**

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## No. XVI.

## AN EXEMPLIFICATION

## OF THE

## ST. IVES LAW OF SEWERS.

---

*Under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of England,  
bearing Date at Westminster the 18th of March 1658 :  
Which said Law of Sewers was made at St. Ives in the  
County of Huntingdon, the 12th of October, in the 13th  
of Charles the First, and in the Year of our Lord 1637.*

---

RICHARD, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth  
of England, Scotland and Ireland, and the Do-  
minions and Territories thereunto belonging : To  
all to whom these Presents shall come greeting.  
We have viewed certain Laws, Ordinances and  
Decrees of Sewers made and established at St.  
Ives in the County of Huntingdon, the twelfth  
Day of October, in the thirteenth Year of the  
Reign of Charles, late King of England, remaining  
of Record in the Files of our Chancery in these  
Words.

AT A SESSIONS of Sewers at St. Ives in the County of  
Huntingdon, the twelfth Day of October in the thir-  
teenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles,

by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and from thence adjourned to Huntingdon in the County aforesaid, and there continued until the seven and twentieth Day of October next following, touching the Fens, low and late surrounded Grounds of the great Level in the Counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon and the Isle of Ely within the Limits of this Commission, holden before Sir Rowland Saint John, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir Beauchamp Saint John, Sir Robert Bell, Sir Miles Sandys junior, Knights, Thomas Dereham, George Glapthorn, Everard Buckworth, Humberstone March, William Fisher, Esquires, and William Hayward, Gentleman, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by Authority of his Highness's Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed as followeth.

WHEREAS at a General Session of Sewers at King's Lynn in the County of Norfolk, holden the thirteenth day of January in the sixth year of his Majesty's reign that now is, in the presence of the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Bedford, and before Sir Robert Heath, Knight, then his Majesty's Attorney General, Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Sir John Carleton, Baronet, Sir Robert Bevil, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir John Peyton, Sir John Cutts, Sir John Hare, Sir John Poley, Sir Robert Bell, and Sir Thomas Dereham, Knights, and others to the number of forty and one Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled for and concerning the work of draining the great level of the fens, low and then surrounded grounds in the counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon and the Isle of Ely, they the said Commis-

Recital of Lynn  
Law.



sioners and the county became humble suitors to the said Earl of Bedford, that his Lordship would be the undertaker thereof, unto which motion his Lordship yielded, and did agree to undertake the said work, whereupon by a law of Sewers made at the said Sessions, it was (amongst other things) then ordered and decreed that the said Earl should have ninety-five thousand acres of the said grounds, to be indifferently assigned and set out unto him the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, of the several sorts and qualities of the said grounds, according to their several natures and goodness, by six Commissioners, whereof three to be of the Quorum, for his Lordship's recompence in performing the said work, and forty thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to be by the said Commissioners, assigned and set out to be liable to the maintainance and continuance of the said work of draining for ever.

And it was then and there further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the new rivers, cuts and drains to be made by the said Earl and his assigns, and the banks thereof, and the forelands on the inside of the banks, not exceeding fifty or threescore foot at the most in breadth, should belong and be unto the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, in respect he and they are to maintain the same, as by the said law or act of Sewers more at large appeareth, unto the which law or act of Sewers his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to give his royal assent.

13 June 12 Car.  
1. at a Session  
of Sewers held  
at Peter-  
borough, from  
thence adjourn-  
ed to St. Ives,  
from thence to  
Wisbich.

And whereas after the said work of draining at and by the great cost, charges and expences of the said Earl well and sufficiently performed, according to the true intent of the said law or act of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid, another general Session of Sewers was holden at Peterborough, in the said county of Northampton, the thirteenth day of June, in the twelfth year of his said Majesty's reign, and from thence adjourned to St.

Ives, in the said county of Huntingdon, the seven and twentieth day of the said month of June, and from thence likewise adjourned to and continued at Wisbech, in the Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge aforesaid, until the eleventh day of August then next ensuing, at which Session at Peterborough, holden before the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Holland, one of his said Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, Oliver Lord Saint John, Sir Rowland Saint John, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir Beauchamp Saint John, Sir Hamond Le Strange, Sir Robert Bell, Sir Thomas Dereham, Sir John Hare, Sir Miles Sandys junior, and others to the number of twenty-three Commissioners of Sewers, they the said Commissioners, did order, decree and adjudge the great level of the said fens, low and late surrounded grounds within the said counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, drained according to the purport and intent of the said act and law of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid, and therefore it was thought fit and so ordained and enacted at the Session holden at Peterborough aforesaid, That divers of the Commissioners then nominated by the court, and such other of the Commissioners as should think fit to be present, or any six or more of them, should, with all convenient speed, view the fens and late surrounded grounds within the said level, and set out, to the said Earl of Bedford and his heirs, the quantity of ninety-five thousand acres of the same, in recompence of and for the draining thereof, with indifferency, according to their judgments and discretions, in such wise as by the said law of Sewers, made at King's Lynn aforesaid, is enacted and decreed.

And accordingly at the said Sessions of Sewers, so by adjournment from Peterborough to St. Ives, and from St. Ives to Wisbech, holden and continued at Wisbech aforesaid, before a competent number of the said Com-

Commissioners  
decree the  
Great Level  
drained accord-  
ing to the intent  
of Lynn Law.

And the 95000  
acres to be set  
out in recom-  
pence to the  
Earl of  
Bedford.

And they are,  
by the said  
Commissioners  
on view, set out  
and assigned to  
the said Earl,  
pursuant to the



intent of Lynn  
Law, with the  
assistance of  
Sir Charles  
Harbord, Sur-  
veyor General  
to his Majesty.

missioners, namely; the said Sir Rowland Saint John, Sir Beauchamp Saint John, Sir Hamond Le Strange, Sir Robert Bell, Sir Miles Sandys junior, and others to the number of twelve of the said Commissioners, having, during the time of that Session, personally perambulated and viewed the said fenny, low and late surrounded grounds, and thereby informed themselves of the several sorts and qualities of the said grounds and of their several natures and goodness, and of the benefit redounding to the several landowners by means of the works of draining done by the said Earl of Bedford, since the time of his undertaking to drain the said fenny and low grounds; in which their perambulation and view as aforesaid, they the said Commissioners were assisted by Sir Charles Harbord, Knight, his Majesty's Surveyor General, who by his Majesty's letters under his royal hand and signet was especially recommended to that service, they the said Commissioners, in pursuance and confirmation of the said decree and judgment made and given at the said Session of Sewers holden at Peterborough as aforesaid, did, at the said Session holden by adjournment at Wisbich, as aforesaid, decree, enact, adjudge and declare, That the said Earl of Bedford had, at his cost and charges, and with the expence of great sums of money, drained the said fenny and low grounds according to the true intent of the law of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid, and with advice of the said Sir Charles Harbord, did allot and set out to the said Earl ninety-five thousand acres of the said fenny, low and late surrounded grounds lying and being in the said several counties of Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, within the limits of the said several Commissioners of Sewers, out of the several and respective lordships, manors, towns, parishes, precincts, fens, and places of the said great level, in such sort and manner as in and by a law, act and decree of

Sewers made at the said Session of Sewers held by adjournment at Wisbich aforesaid doth more at large appear. And it was further, at the said Session holden by adjournment at Wisbich aforesaid, ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Earl of Bedford should have, hold and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand acres of the said fenny and low grounds to him the said Earl, his heirs and assigns for ever, freed and discharged of and from all rights and title of common, charges, demands, and incumbrances whatsoever.

And it was then and there by the said Commissioners further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Sir Charles Harbord, or such other person or persons as he the said Sir Charles Harbord should thereunto appoint, should survey and measure out the said ninety-five thousand acres so decreed unto the said Earl of Bedford, and should by lock-spitting, making of small trenches or cuts or otherwise, sever or set out the said ninety-five thousand acres from the several and respective lands and commons whereby the same might be fully known and distinguished, and whereby the said Earl and his assigns might be enabled by partition dikes to sever and divide the several pieces and proportions of grounds so to be set out from the said lands and commons, and to hold and enjoy the same according to the true meaning of the said act made at Wisbich aforesaid.

Same to be measured under the direction of Sir Charles Harbord.

And it was lastly by the said Commissioners agreed and declared, That so soon as the several proportions and parcels of ground before in the said act mentioned should be fully measured and distinguished from the rest of the commons and severals, by the said Sir Charles Harbord or such persons as he should nominate, that then perfect schedules should be thereof made by him or them accordingly. And that thereupon the said Commissioners would make such further act or acts as should be meet for the further assuring and settling thereof, and every part and

Where measured, schedules to be made thereof.



parcel thereof, to and upon the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, and for the local assignation and settling of forty thousand acres thereof, to be set out by the said Commissioners for the perpetual maintenance of the said works of draining in such wise as by the said act of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid is provided, ordered and agreed, as by the said act and law of Sewers made at the said Session of Sewers holden by adjournment at Wisbich as aforesaid more at large appeareth.

Since said Sessions of Sewers complaints by petition were made to his Majesty against decrees as to the draining and allotments.

Petitions heard by Privy Council.

The decree confirmed as to draining.

As to allotment referred to Commissioners who made that decree.

And whereas sithence the said Sessions of Sewers holden at Wisbich aforesaid several petitions of complaints were presented to his Majesty, thereby pretending that the said great level of the said fens, low and late surrounded grounds, was not drained according to the true intent of the said law made at King's Lynn aforesaid, and that the petitioners received much prejudice by the inequality of allotments contained in the said law and decree made at Wisbich as aforesaid, the which complaints his Majesty was graciously pleased to refer to the consideration of his Highness's most Honourable Privy Council to be heard and determined according to justice, and thereupon at his Majesty's Court at Greenwich, the ninth day of July last past, the said several petitions of complaints being read at the Council Table (his Majesty then present) and considered of and debated in the presence of many of the parties, and of the said Sir Charles Harbord, his Majesty did declare his royal pleasure to be, that the said decrees whereby the said fens are adjudged drained should by no ways be impeached as to the judgment of draining, but that the petitions and complaints concerning the inequality of allotments by the decree of Wisbich, especially of the church of Ely and the land of the colleges in Cambridge, should be referred to the Commissioners who made that decree, and to his Majesty's said Surveyor General, to be ordered and established by them or such of them as should be present at

the then next meeting, as they should think reasonable. And that the setting-out and allotment of the drainers parts should proceed speedily and effectually without interruption by the said complainants or any other, as by an act of state, bearing date the said ninth day of July appeareth.

And whereas the Commissioners first abovenamed now assembled at this present Sessions of Sewers having been therein assisted by the said Sir Charles Harbord, his Majesty's said Surveyor General, have, according to his Majesty's gracious direction in the said act of state mentioned, taken into their serious considerations as well the said petitions of complaint presented to his Majesty, and by the said act of state referred unto them as aforesaid, as also divers other petitions of the like nature exhibited unto them, the said Commissioners upon full and mature hearing, examination and debate of all and singular the matters complained of in and by the said petitioners, they the said Commissioners have discovered sundry errors and inequalities in the said allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand acres, contained in the said act and decree made by adjournment at Wisbich as aforesaid, by reason of some mistakes in a survey before that time made of the said great level. And therefore they the said Commissioners, by the special advice and assistance of the said Sir Charles Harbord, have to the utmost of their judgment and discretions according to equity and justice altered, rectified and reformed the said allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand acres contained in the said law or decree made at Wisbich as aforesaid, and all and every such errors and inequalities as by any way or means they could find out or discover to be in the same; and they the said Commissioners, with the advice and assistance aforesaid, have made and perfected and do hereby decree and ordain a just and equal allotment of ninety-five thousand acres of fenny,

The said Commissioners assisted by Sir Charles Harbord taking petitions of complaint into consideration, find errors in the allotments which they rectify, and decree equal allotment as in schedules annexed.



low and late surrounded grounds, parcel of the said great level, to be hereby assured and decreed to the said Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns for ever, according to the tenor and true intent of the said law or act of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid, the which said allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand acres is particularly declared and contained in twenty-six schedules hereunto annexed.

Adjudged to the Earl of Bedford to have drained the Fens according to the intent of the Lynn law.

Now the said Commissioners, having an especial regard and consideration of and to all and singular the aforesaid premisses, do hereby adjudge, decree and declare that the Earl of Bedford at his own great cost and expence both well and sufficiently drained all the said fenny, low and late surrounded grounds of the said great level lying in the said several counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, according to the true tenor and true intent of the said act or law of sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid.

Decree to Earl of Bedford 95000 acres as in the schedules annexed,

And the said Commissioners do hereby further enact, ordain, adjudge and decree unto the said Francis Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns for ever, all and singular the lands and grounds, and all and every the parts and parcels and proportions of lands, fens and grounds of what nature soever they or any of them be, with their and every of their appurtenances set forth, declared and contained in the said twenty-six schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to the said full proportion and quantity of ninety-five thousand acres of the said fenny, low and late surrounded grounds of the said great level. And all and every the water-courses, rivers, drains, wear-dikes, forelands not exceeding sixty foot in breadth, banks, sluices, and works of draining within, or upon, the said great level, or any part thereof, by the said Earl or his assigns made and erected. And all and singular the fishings in the said water-courses, rivers, drains, wear-dikes and every of them, and the soil, ground and inhe-

with water-courses, rivers, banks, forelands, &c.

ritance of all and every the said water-courses, rivers, drains, wear-dikes, forelands, not exceeding sixty foot in breadth, banks, sluices and works of draining and every of them. Together with convenient ways, drifts and passages made and set out, and from time to time to be made, appointed and set out, to and for the said Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns, for his and their more free, easy and commodious passing to and from the ninety-five thousand acres of low and fenny ground, hereby adjudged and decreed unto the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, and to and from every part and parcel thereof, and also to and for the more free, easy and commodious passage of all other land-owners, tenants and commoners, to any, from any of their several lands or commons adjoining unto the said ways; and all and singular other easements, profits and commodities to all and singular the lands and grounds, and all and every the parts, parcels and proportions of lands, fens and grounds declared and contained in the said twenty-six schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to ninety-five thousand acres as aforesaid, and to all and singular the other forementioned premisses belonging or appertaining, according to the tenor and true intent of the said law or act of sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid; to have and to hold all and singular the said lands and grounds, parts, parcels and proportion of grounds, lands and fens, set forth, declared and mentioned in the said twenty-six schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to ninety-five thousand acres as aforesaid, and every part and parcel of the same, and all and every the forementioned water-courses, rivers, drains, wear-dikes, fishings, forelands, banks, sluices and works of draining, and the soil and inheritance of them and every of them, ways and premisses whatsoever, with their and every of their appurtenances, unto the said Francis Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns for ever, freed and discharged from all

Also with convenient ways, drifts, and passages.

Wear-dikes, fishings, to the earl, his heirs and assigns for ever, free from all incumbrances.



Save a fee  
farm rent of  
10% a year to  
the crown.

former right, titles, interests, conditions, commons, rents, services, charges, troubles, incumbrances, duties and demands whatsoever. Except one fee-farm rent of ten pounds, which is hereby reserved and decreed to be yearly paid unto our Sovereign Lord the King, his heirs and successors for ever, at the two feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and St. Michael the Archangel, by even portions, and to be issuing out of all and singular the lands and grounds hereby decreed and assured unto the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, as aforesaid.

The highways  
particularly  
named and set  
out.

And for the better habitation, improvement, use and benefit of the said whole great level, it is further enacted, ordained and decreed by the said Commissioners, in further pursuance of the said act or law of sewers, made at King's Lynn aforesaid, that convenient summer ways and passages shall be made in, upon, and throughout the said great level in manner and form following, that is to say, one way from Bedford River near Welney to Westmore Causeway, near Littleport; one other way leading from Upwood Hards, called Bottom Hill, unto Whittlesey; and one other way leading from Peake Kirke Meadow unto Guy Hurn; and one other way leading from the Hard Lands of Chateresse, called Wenny Hill, to the way in Sutton Grounds, leading to Sutton Galt, every of the said ways to contain three score foot in breadth between their several drains or wear-dikes; and in respect the said ways are to be made and erected at the sole cost of him the said Earl, or his assigns, it is therefore enacted, ordained and declared, that all and singular the aforesaid ways, together with their wear-dikes and drains, be the soil and inheritance of him the said Francis Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns for ever.

The bridges  
particularly  
named and  
described.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained and decreed, that convenient bridges shall be made in places meet

and necessary, as well for the travelling and passage in, upon and throughout the said ways hereby enacted and decreed to be made as aforesaid, as also for the passing to and from any of the lands of the said great level near adjoining unto the said bridges, that is to say, one bridge over the new river, called Bedford River, at Sutton Gault; one other bridge over the said new river, at Mephal Town; one other bridge over the said new river, near Oxwillow Lode; and one other bridge over the said new river, at Welney Town; and that the said bridges shall be the inheritance of him the said Earl, his heirs and assigns for ever.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained and decreed by the said Commissioners, that the several lands and proportions of ground hereafter particularly mentioned, amounting to forty thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres of fenny and late surrounded grounds declared and contained in the said twenty-six schedules hereunto annexed, and hereby decreed and assured to the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, as aforesaid, shall for ever hereafter stand, be and continue liable and charged to and with the maintenance and preservation of all and singular the aforementioned ways and bridges, hereby declared to be made as aforesaid, and of all and singular other works erected and made, or by the said Commissioners appointed to be erected and made by the said Earl of Bedford, or his assigns, for draining and improving of the said great level according to the true intent and meaning of the said act or law of Sewers, made at King's Lynn aforesaid. That is to say, the part decreed unto the said earl out of Reed's Fen, in Helgay, three hundred and sixty acres; in Sir Henry Willoughbie's several fen in Southery, on the west side of the River Ouze, seventy-six acres; the proportions decreed out of the common fens of Weerham, Wretton and Stoke, five hundred and thirty-six acres; and out of the

A particular of the 40,000 acres allotted for the maintenance of the works.

Out of Helgay, 360 A.

Southery 76 A

Weerham, Wretton and Stoke 536 A.



Norwold 429 A.	common fens of Norwold four hundred and twenty-nine acres; the proportion decreed out of the several fens in
Methwold 357 A.	Methwold three hundred fifty and seven acres; and out
Feltwell 751 A.	of the several fens of Feltwell seven hundred fifty and
Hockwold 100 A.	one acres; out of the several in Hockwold, called Pooling's, one hundred acres; the proportion decreed out of
Upwell Shevins 200 A.	the common fen of Upwell, called Shevins, two hundred
Hale Fen, and common piece in Upwell 590 A.	acres; and out of Hale Fen, and the common piece in
Londoners Fen 200 A.	Upwell five hundred and ninety acres: and out of the fen grounds, called Londoners Fens, eight hundred acres; all the which forementioned parcels of ground are within the county of Norfolk. The proportion of ground decreed in the several fens of Well and Welney, lying in the said county of Norfolk and the Isle of Ely, eight hundred and forty acres; a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the intercommon fens of Swafham Prior, Swafham Bulbecke, Botsham and Reach, in the county of Cambridge, containing six hundred acres, viz. the whole proportions decreed in White Fen, being four hundred and eleven acres, and in great Sedge Fen, being one hundred and eighty acres; and five acres in High Fen, adjoining unto great Sedge Fen, and four acres in the Croyle, adjoining also upon great Sedge Fen. The whole proportion decreed out of the intercommon fens of Botsham, Horningsey, Qui and Ditton, being four hundred acres in the said county of Cambridge; the whole proportion decreed out of the common and fen grounds of Downham in the said Isle of Ely, three hundred and ninety acres; the whole proportion decreed out of Ashwell Moor, near Coveney, in the said Isle of Ely, four hundred twenty-three acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common dammes and several fen grounds of Maney, in the said Isle of Ely, two hundred and fifty acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen, called Pyemoor, near Witchford, in the said Isle of Ely, one hun-
Well and Welney 840 A.	
Swafham Prior, Swafham Bulbeck and Reach 600 A.	
Bottisham, Horningsey, Qui, Ditton, 400 A.	
Downham 390 A.	
Ashwell Moor 423 A.	
Maney 250 A.	
Pyemoor 152 A.	

dred fifty-two acres; the whole proportion decreed out of Grunty Fen, in the said Isle, four hundred twenty-six acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds of Chartresse, in the said Isle of Ely, three thousand eight hundred twenty-six acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the several and common fen grounds of Doddington, March, Wimblington and Benwick, twelve thousand seven hundred and forty-nine acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common and several fen grounds of Elme, in the said Isle of Ely, two hundred and fifty acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds, called Eusymore, in the said Isle of Ely, two thousand acres; a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the several fen grounds of Thomas Tyril, Gentleman, lying near Priests Houses, in the said Isle of Ely, twenty-four acres, at the west end of the same ground; the whole proportion decreed out of the High Fen and North Fen in Somersham, in the county of Huntingdon, one thousand five hundred and thirty-three acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds of Warboys, in the said county of Huntingdon, one thousand eight hundred sixty-eight acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds, called Wistow Fen, three hundred eighty-six acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds of Ramsey, in the said county of Huntingdon, four thousand five hundred sixty-four acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the several fen grounds of Sir Oliver Cromwell, Knight, in the grounds called Ashbeck, Abbots, Pingle and Wiggin Moor, in Ramsey aforesaid, one hundred seventy-seven acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the several fen grounds of Cunington, in the said county of Huntingdon, two hundred eighty-one acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fens of Denton, in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred fifty and

Grunty Fen  
426 A.

Chartresse  
3826 A.

Doddington,  
March, Wim-  
blington, Ben-  
wick, 12749 A.

Elme 250 A.

Eusymore  
2000 A.

Tyril's Ground  
24 A.

Somersham  
1533 A.

Warboys  
1868 A.

Wistow 386 A.

Ramsey 4564  
A.

Cromwell's se-  
veralls in Ram-  
sey 177 A.

Cunington  
281 A.

Denton 156 A.



- six acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the fen grounds of Caldecote, in the said county of Huntingdon, fifty-six acres; the whole proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds of Stilton, in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred and sixty acres; the whole proportion decreed out of common fen ground of Woodwalton, in the said county of Huntingdon, nine hundred thirty-seven acres; a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the common fen grounds of Holme, in the said county of Huntingdon, twenty-seven acres, adjoining upon the said fen grounds of Walton; a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the several fen grounds of Thorney, in the said Isle of Ely, one thousand eight hundred and eighty acres, lying on the east part of Knar Fen, adjoining to the Wride; a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the common fen on the south side of Bedford River, called Westmoor, in the said Isle of Ely, the said parcel containing four hundred eighty-two acres, and lying on the south-east side of one thousand acres, part of the said proportion, adjoining to Oxwillow Load; a parcel of the said proportion decreed out of the said common fen, called Westmoor, on the north side of the said Bedford River, the said parcel containing four hundred eighty-two acres, and lying on the north-west side of one thousand acres, part of the said proportion, lying next unto Welney; and a parcel of the proportion decreed out of the common fen, called Byall Fen, on the north side of the said Bedford River, the said parcel containing four hundred and eighty-two acres, and lying on the north-west side of one thousand acres, part of the said proportion, next towards Maney.
- Caldecote 56 A.
- Stilton 160 A.
- Woodwalton 937 A.
- Holme 27 A.
- Thorney 1880 A.
- Westmoor Fen, on south of Bedford River, 482 A.
- Westmoor, on north side of Bedford River, 482 A.
- Byall Fen 482 A.

Partition dikes to be made according to the intent of the Lynn Law.

And it is further enacted, ordained and decreed, That all partition dikes and fences, which shall be thought necessary to be made to carry away the rain water towards the main drains, shall be made according to the purport, true intent and meaning of the said act or law of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained, decreed and declared, That the said Earl of Bedford, or his assigns, shall, from time to time and at all times hereafter, have free liberty and authority, according to the power formerly given unto him by the said law made at King's Lynn aforesaid, to make any such new works, and to cut ground and cast up earth for making such new banks and drains, as by six or more of the said Commissioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of the quorum, shall be adjudged and decreed as fit and necessary to be made and erected for the further advancement of this great work of draining.

Earl of Bedford to have power to make new works, &c. according to Lynn Law, under the comptrol of six or more of the Commissioners, three to be of the quorum.

And it is further hereby enacted, ordered, ordained, decreed and declared, That the said Earl of Bedford shall have, hold and enjoy to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, all and every the waters, sumps, dikes, pits, holes and mear-grounds, and the fishings in the same, and the soil, ground and inheritance of them, and every of them, lying and being within the said ninety five thousand acres, contained and declared in the said schedules hereunto annexed, the same being not drained or drainable, according to act, and the true intent and meaning of the said act or law made at King's Lynn aforesaid, although the same be no parcel of the said quantity of ninety-five thousand acres, hereby decreed and assured to the said Earl, his heirs and assigns, as aforesaid.

Waters, pits, holes and mear-grounds not drainable, vested in the Earl of Bedford, though no part of the 95000 acres.

Provided always, and it is hereby adjudged, enacted and declared, That the antient rivers and drains shall be and remain to the right owners thereof, as formerly they did or hereafter should of right belong, according to the tenor and true meaning of the said act or law, made at King's Lynn aforesaid; any thing in this present act or law of sewers to the contrary notwithstanding.

Antient rivers and drains to remain to the right owners.

And it is lastly hereby concluded and fully agreed by the said Commissioners, that they, together with the said Earl of Bedford, shall become humble suitors to the

Commissioners with Earl of Bedford to apply to the King for a ratification of this decree,



and that he would get it confirmed by the Court of Chancery and the Dutchy Court, and also ordered, as matter of state, by the Privy Council; and for his royal assent thereto when it shall, as a law, have passed both Houses of Parliament.

King's most excellent Majesty, that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to confirm, approve and ratify this present act and decree, and, by his royal hand signing the same, to declare his royal approbation thereof and assent thereunto; and that his Majesty will be further graciously pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and the Chancellor of his Highness's Dutchy of Lancaster, that it may in due form of law be confirmed and ratified, both by decree of the Honourable Court of Chancery and of the Court belonging to the said Dutchy, and that his Majesty will vouchsafe to recommend the same to the Right Honourable Lords and others of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, that it may by them be ordered, as matter of state, not to be altered or impeached, having received the approbation of that Honourable Board. And that whensoever a Parliament shall be called, and a bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same be then passed as a law, that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for the full and final confirmation thereof, to give his royal assent thereunto.

In witness whereof, the Commissioners first abovenamed to two parts of these presents indented, the one part to be presented to his Majesty as aforesaid, and the other part to remain with the Clerk of the Sewers, according to the law in that case provided, have set their hands and seals the said twenty-seventh day of October, the year first above written.

WE have also viewed certain schedules or particulars of lands to the said laws, ordinances and decrees annexed, under the seals of certain Commissioners of Sewers, whereby the said laws, ordinances and decrees were made, remaining of record in the files of our said Chancery in these words:

A SCHEDULE and Particular of such Lands and Proportions of Grounds lying within the Fens, called the great Level of Fens or surrounded Grounds, within the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln and the Isle of Ely, as by this present Law or Act of Sewers are set out, decreed and assured unto the Right Honourable Francis Earl of Bedford, his heirs and assigns, to be holden and enjoyed by him and them for ever, according to the tenor of this said Act.

## COM. NORF.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Denver in the said county of Norfolk, lying on the west side of the river Ouse, three hundred and fourscore acres, (that is to say) one hundred twenty-four acres out of that part of the fen near Salters Lode, abutting eastward upon the said river, and northward upon the river called Bedford River. And the residue, being two hundred fifty-six acres, out of that part of the fen that lieth next Salters Lode upon the north side of the said new river, abutting upon the said new river and Well Creek - - - - - 380 0 0

Denver.

Out of a several fen ground in Denver aforesaid, abutting westward upon the grounds of Well, four acres at the south end thereof, next Denver Fen - - - 4 0 0

Out of the common fens of or belonging to Helgay, in the said county of Norfolk, one thousand three hundred acres, (that is to say) one intire fen, lying between Sir

Helgay.

Henry Willoughbie's drain and Southery Common, containing nine hundred eighty-two acres, and the residue being three hundred and eighteen acres, out of that part of the said fen abutting northward upon the imbanked grounds of Edmund Skipwith, Esquire, and adjoining to the said river Ouse

- - - 1300 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Sir Henry Willoughby, Knight, called Read's Fen, three hundred and sixty acres, at the north end of the said grounds, abutting upon Maid Lode

- - 360 0 0

Southery.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Southery, in the said county of Norfolk, eight hundred acres out of the common fen called Adymore, abutting upon Helgay common fen, and the river Ouse

- - 800 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds in Southery aforesaid, of or belonging to Sir Henry Willoughby aforesaid, lying on the east side of the river Ouse, seventy and six acres at the south end thereof, near to Modney House

- - 76 0 0

Out of one other several fen ground in Southery aforesaid, of or belonging to the said Sir Henry Willoughby, Knight, lying on the west side of the river Ouse, seventy-six acres at the west end of the same grounds

- - 76 0 0

Out of one other several fen ground, lying in Southery or Helgay, or one of them, of or belonging to Thomas Gibbon, Esq. twenty acres at the western end thereof, near Priests Houses

- - 20 0 0



Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Roxham, in the said county of Norfolk, ninety-four acres at the south-east part of the same fen, abutting upon Dereham Coat Fen, and the river Wissey - 94 0 0

Roxham.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Dereham, in the said county of Norfolk, two hundred acres, (that is to say), ninety-five acres out of the fen called Dereham Coat Fen, abutting upon Roxham Fen and the river Wissey, and the Residue, being one hundred and five acres, out of the common fen, at the parts thereof abutting upon the said river Wissey and Wereham - 200 0 0

Dereham.

Out of the common fens of or belonging to Wereham, Wretton, and Stoke, in the said county of Norfolk, five hundred thirty and six acres in one piece, next the said river Wissey, extending along the said river, from the north side of Tokeshill to Weredike - 536 0 0

Wereham,  
Wretton, and  
Stoke.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Norwold, in the said county of Norfolk, four hundred twenty and nine acres, (that is to say) the intire common fen lying on the north side of the river Wissey, containing twenty-nine acres, and the residue, being four hundred acres, out of the common fens, lying on the south side of the said river, abutting upon the said river, and lying between Howhill and Wittington Causey, and between the said river and the hard lands of Norwold - 429 0 0

Norwold.

Out of the common fens of or belonging to Methwold in the said county of Norfolk, one thousand six hundred forty and eight

Methwold.

acres, out of the fens called Southmore and Twinne Lodes, abutting north-westward, upon part of the said common called Southmore, wherein Southery doth inter-common, north-eastward upon the several fen grounds of Sir Edmund Munford, Knight, and southward upon the common fen of Feltwel, called North Fen - 1648 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Methwold aforesaid, three hundred fifty-seven acres at the west end of two of the said severals next Southery - 357 0

Feltwel.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Feltwel, in the said county of Norfolk, one thousand six hundred ninety-seven acres, (that is to say) eight hundred and forty acres out of the fen called North Fen, at the north-east part thereof, abutting upon the common fen of Methwold, called Southmore. Out of the fen called the Mowe Fen, eighty acres at the west part of the same fen next Brandon River; and the residue, being seven hundred seventy and seven acres, out of the fen called the South Fen, at the south-west part thereof abutting upon the said Mowe Fen, and the several fen ground belonging to Sir Thomas Woodhouse - 1697 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Feltwel aforesaid, seven hundred fifty and one acres, (that is to say) out of the several fen ground now or late of Sir Thomas Woodhouse, Knight, abutting upon Feltwel South Fen, and a several belonging to Sir Edmund Mundford, two hundred and six acres out of the middle



part of the said several fen from north to south. Out of the several fen ground of Sir Edmund Mundford aforesaid, abutting upon the said several of Sir Thomas Woodhouse aforesaid, one hundred ninety and seven acres out of the middle part of the said fen from north to south. Out of the several fen ground belonging to Christ's College, abutting upon the said several fen ground of Sir Edmund Mundford aforesaid, one hundred twenty-six acres out of the middle part of the said ground from north to south. Out of the several fen ground late of Robert Wace, Gent. abutting upon the said several ground of Christ's College and the river of Brandon, one hundred seventy-two acres out of the middle of the said ground from north to south. Out of the several fen ground lying between the fen grounds of Christ's College aforesaid and the river of Brandon, fourteen acres abutting northward upon the several fen ground of Thomas Gibbon, Esq. Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Thomas Tyrel, gent. lying between the aforesaid fen grounds of Sir Edmund Mundford, Knight, and the river of Brandon, thirteen acres and twenty perches at the south-east end of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground lying between the several fen of Sir Thomas Woodhouse aforesaid and the river of Brandon, ten acres and three roods at the south part thereof. Out of the several fen ground late of Robert Wace, Gent. abutting upon the hard lands of Feltwel aforesaid, six acres and ten perches at the north-west end of the same ground.

Out of the several fen ground lying between Feltwel Mowe Fen and the river of Brandon, six acres and ten perches at the north-west end thereof - - - 751 0 0

Hockwold and  
Wilton.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Hockwold and Wilton, in the said county of Norfolk, nine hundred and fifty acres out of the common fen adjoining to the common fens and the hard lands of Feltwel, and abutting upon the said hard lands of Feltwel - - - 950 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of William Heveningham, Esq. two hundred acres, (that is to say) out of the several ground called Poolings, one hundred acres at the north side thereof, abutting upon Feltwel Mowe Fen and the river of Brandon, and out of one other several ground lying on the south-west side of the said river of Brandon, one hundred acres abutting upon the fen called Redmore Grounds and the said river of Brandon - - - 200 0 0

Out of the several fen ground of Osbert Pratt, Gent., lying next the fen called Sea Fen, ten acres at the north end of the same ground - - - 10 0 0

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COM. SUFF.

Brandon.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging unto Brandon, in the county of Suffolk, three hundred and fifty acres, (that is to say) one intire fen abutting upon the east part of the common fen of Lackheath, called Stallard, one hundred and ninety acres; and the residue, being one hundred

and sixty acres, out of a common fen abutting upon the said intire fen, at the west end of the said common fen - - 350 0 0

Lackingheath.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Lackingheath, in the said county of Suffolk, one thousand and eight hundred acres, (that is to say) the moiety or one half of the common fen called Little-shell, or East-more, being ninety-two acres at the eastern part thereof, next the common fen called Archingstal. The said intire common fen called Archingstal containing one hundred seventy-four acres. One intire common fen abutting upon the river of Brandon. Audry Lode, and the several fen ground of William Heveningham, Esq. containing forty-seven acres. One intire common fen lying on the north side of Brandon River, between the common fen of Hockwold and Wilton, called Sea Fen, and the several fen of William Heveningham aforesaid, containing fifty-eight acres and a half. The intire common fen called Town-more, containing five hundred seventy-nine acres; and the residue, being eight hundred forty-nine acres and a half, out of the great common fen abutting upon Plant Lode and the said fen called Townmore, at the north-west part thereof 1800 0 0

Lackingheath  
severals.

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Lackingheath aforesaid, two hundred and fourscore acres, (that is to say) out of the several fen grounds of Unley Farm, lying between the common fen grounds of Lackingheath aforesaid, and the Sedge Fens of Milden Hall, one hundred twenty-three



acres and two roods at the west end of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground now or late of William Steward, gent. lying at the west end of the common fen called Stallard, three acres and one rood at the west end of the same ground. Out of one other several fen ground now or late of the said William Steward, lying on the north side of Brandon River, six acres and one rood at the north west end of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground abutting upon the said common fen called Stallard and the High Lode, four acres at the north end of the same ground. Out of a triangular several fen ground abutting upon the said common fen called Stallard and the High Lode, one acre three roods and twenty perches at the south end of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground lying between Winter Lode and Cross Water, at the meeting of the same lodes, one acre three roods and twenty perches at the north west end thereof. Out of a several fen ground lying near Willow Lode, encompassed on all sides with the common fen of Lackingheath aforesaid, two acres at the west part of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground lying on the east part of the last mentioned several ground, four acres and one rood at the north-west end thereof. Out of one other several fen ground lying on the east part of the several ground last mentioned, and abutting upon Cross Water, eight acres at the north-west side of the same ground next unto Cross Water aforesaid. Out of the several fen

ground lying between the last mentioned several ground and Willow Lode, two acres and three roods at the west end of the same ground. Out of the several fen ground, abutting upon the west side of Winter Lode and High Lode aforesaid, fifteen acres and two roods at the north-west end thereof abutting upon High Lode. Out of the several fen ground abutting upon the common fen called East More, and the several fen called the Boats Gangs, two acres at the north-west end thereof, next to Delf Dike. Out of the several fen grounds called the Boats Gangs, sixty-seven acres and a half at the west end thereof, abutting upon Plant Lode and Delf Dike. Out of the several fen ground now or late of John Crane, abutting upon High Lode, and the several ground now or late of William Barne, Gent., eight acres and two roods adjoining upon the said several ground of William Barne, and the said High Lode. Out of the said several fen ground now or late of William Barne aforesaid, ten acres adjoining upon the said several ground of John Crane. Out of one other several fen ground now or late of the said John Crane, lying near the said several ground of William Barne aforesaid, six acres and two roods at the north-west side of the same ground, abutting upon High Lode aforesaid. Out of the greater of the two several fen grounds lying between Delf Dike and Brandon River, eight acres and two roods at the north-west side thereof. And out of the other smaller several, lying between



Delf Dike and Brandon River, three acres  
and three roods at the north end of the  
same ground - - - 280 0 0

Milden Hall.

Out of the common fen ground of or be-  
longing to Milden Hall, in the said county  
of Suffolk, two thousand nine hundred and  
twenty acres, (that is to say) one intire com-  
mon called Burnt Fen, containing one thou-  
sand seven hundred and thirty-seven acres.  
Two intire fen grounds called Sedge Fens,  
lying between Burnt Fen and Town More  
in Lackingheath aforesaid, containing eight  
hundred and forty acres. And the residue,  
being three hundred forty and three acres,  
out of the common fen lying between the  
several fen grounds of Unly Farm and  
Baldwin's Lode at the west part of the  
same fen - - - 2920 0 0

#### COM. CANTABR.

Isleham.

Out of the common fen grounds of or  
belonging to Isleham, in the county of  
Cambridge, nine hundred and thirty acres,  
(that is to say) one intire common fen  
abutting upon the common fens of Soham,  
called Great Metlam and Little Metlam,  
and the river of Milden Hall, containing  
three hundred and eight acres. Out of the  
mow fen of Isleham, abutting upon the  
fore-mentioned common fen of Isleham,  
and the said river of Milden Hall, four  
hundred thirty-two acres at the north part  
thereof. And out of the common fen of

Isleham, called West Fen, abutting upon the common fens of Soham, called Little Metlam, and the Hasse, one hundred and ninety acres at the north end of the same fen - - - - - 930 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Soham and Barway, in the said county of Cambridge, one thousand and eight hundred acres, (that is to say) the intire common fen abutting upon Wickin high fen, called Fordey, containing one hundred fifty-six acres and a half. Out of the common fen called Barway Middle, seventy-four acres and a half at the north-east part thereof, abutting upon Sea Lode and the river Ouse. The two intire common fens called Great Metlam and Little Metlam, containing one thousand two hundred and ten acres, and out of the common fen called the Hasse, three hundred fifty-nine acres at the north part thereof, abutting upon Little Metlam aforesaid - 1800 0 0

Out of the several fen ground in Soham aforesaid, of or belonging to Sir Robert Heath, Knight, four hundred and twenty acres. Out of the several fen ground called Great Metlam, abutting upon the common called Great Metlam and the river of Mil-den Hall, at the east part of the said several fen - - - - - 420 0 0

Out of the several fen ground in Soham aforesaid, lying between the fens called East Fen and Calf Fen, eight acres at the east end thereof - - - - - 8 0 0

Out of the several fen ground in Soham,

	called Bugbeach, one acre at the west end thereof - - - -	1 0 0
Fordham.	Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Fordham, in the said county of Cambridge, lying between the fen grounds of Burwell and the hard lands near Wickin, twenty-seven acres at the west end of the same fen - - - -	27 0 0
Wickin.	Out of the common fen ground of or belonging to Wickin, in the said county of Cambridge, four hundred and fifty acres, (that is to say) out of the common fen, called the Sedge Fen or Broad Meadow, three hundred acres at the western end thereof, abutting upon Reach Lode, the hard lands of Wickin, and the imbanked several grounds of Isaac Barrow, Esq.; and the residue, being one hundred and fifty acres, out of the common fen called High Fen, at the north-east part thereof adjoining upon the several ground of Thetford, called the Botts Gangs, and the river Grant - - - -	450 0 0
	Out of the fen grounds of Wickin aforesaid, being Mow Fens or Lamas Grounds, consisting of the lots or doles of divers persons, one hundred acres, (that is to say) out of the mowing ground lying on the west side of the river Grant, fifty-five acres and three roods at the west end of the same lots or doles, abutting upon the common fen of Water-beach, called Joyst Fen; out of the mowing grounds lying between the hard lands of Wickin aforesaid, the river Grant, the several fen grounds of Upmeere Farm, and the way leading from the hard lands of	



Wickin unto Dimock's Coat, twenty-three acres and one rood at the middle part of the said mow fen, where the said doles or lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said hard lands of Wickin to the said way eading to Dimock's Coat; and out of the now fen ground lying between the said way eading to Dimock's Coat, the river Grant, the high fen of Wickin and the hard lands of Wickin, twenty-one acres at the middle part of the said mow fen, where the said doles or lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said way leading to Dimock's Coat unto the way leading to Wickin High Fen aforesaid - - - 100 0 0

Out of a several sedge fen of Isaac Barrow, Esq.; lying in Wickin aforesaid, twenty-one acres at the north-west part thereof - - - 21 0 0

Out of a several sedge fen of or belonging to Sir Edward Peyton, Knight and Baronet, fourteen acres at the west end thereof - 14 0 0

Out of other several fen grounds lying in Wickin aforesaid twenty acres, (that is to say) out of the imbanked several fen ground of Isaac Barrow aforesaid seven acres at the west end thereof, abutting upon the hard lands of Wickin aforesaid; out of the several fen grounds belonging to Upmeer Farm five acres at the north-east end of the same grounds, abutting upon the mow fen of Wickin and the river Grant; out of the several fen ground now or late of Sir Edward Peyton aforesaid, lying upon the west side of the river Grant, five acres at the south-west end thereof abutting upon the river

Grant; and out of the several fen ground of — Dalton, Gent. adjoyning to the said several fen of Sir Edward Peyton and the river Grant, three acres at the south-west part of the same several ground - 20 0 0

Burwell and  
Reach.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Burwell and Reach in the said county of Cambridge, seven hundred acres at the north-west part of the same fens abutting upon Wickin Lode and Reach Lode 700 0 0

Swafham.

Out of the intercommon fens of or belonging to Swafham Prior, Swafham Bulbeck, Botsam and Reach, in the said county of Cambridge, or to some or one of them, one thousand four hundred acres, (that is to say) out of the common fen, called White Fen, four hundred and eleven acres abutting upon Swafham Lode and White Fen Lake. Out of the common fen called the Croyle, four hundred and four acres abutting eastward upon the common fen called Great Sedge Fen, southward and westward upon the residue of the same common fen called the Croyle, and northward upon the common fen called the High Fen; out of the said common fen called the High Fen, four hundred and five acres at the north-east part thereof abutting upon Reach Lode and the river Grant; and out of the common fen called Great Sedge Fen, one hundred and eighty acres at the north end thereof abutting upon the High Fen and Reach Lode - 1400 0 0

Botsam.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Botsam in the said county of Cambridge, lying between White Fen Lake and the river Grant, one hundred and forty

acres at the north-east end of the same fen-ground abutting upon Swafham High Fen and the river Grant

- 140 0 0

Out of the intercommon fen grounds of or belonging to Botsam, Horningsey, Qui, and Ditton, in the said county of Cambridge, or to some or one of them, four hundred acres, (that is to say) out of the common fen called High Fen, one hundred acres at the eastern end thereof abutting upon the common fen called the Rough; and out of the said common fen called the Rough, three hundred acres at the western part thereof abutting upon the said High Fen

Horningsey,  
Qui, and  
Ditton.

- 400 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Water-Beach in the said county of Cambridge, seven hundred and fifty acres, (that is to say) out of the fen called the Joyst Fen, six hundred thirty-eight acres at the north end thereof abutting upon the several fen grounds of Stretham and Wicken; and out of one other fen, lying between the said fen called Joyst Fen, the river Grant, and the hard lands of Water-Beach, one hundred and twelve acres at the north-east end thereof, abutting upon the said fen called Joyst Fen and the river Grant

Water-Beach.

- 750 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Cottenham in the said county of Cambridge, two hundred and forty acres at the east end of the common fen, lying between the common fens called Sech Hill Fens and the Lots

- 240 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Rampton in the said county of Cambridge, sixteen acres, (that is to say)

Rampton.

out of the mow fen called Hempsal, thirteen acres at the north-east end thereof abutting upon Smithy Fen in Cottenham; and out of the common fen ground called Iram, three acres at the east corner thereof abutting upon Hempsal aforesaid - -

16 0 (

Wivelingham,

Out of the common fens of or belonging to Wivelingham in the said county of Cambridge, one hundred eighty-three acres and one rood, (that is to say) out of the common fen ground called Hempsal, fifty-three acres at the north part thereof adjoining upon Smithy Fen and Audrey Causey; out of the common fen called Middle-ditch Fen, seventy-seven acres and one rood at the south-east part thereof abutting upon the several fen ground called Babies Hurne and the river Ouse; and out of the common fen called Clattox or Langrige, fifty-three acres at the north end thereof abutting upon the several fen grounds of Over and the several fen grounds in Wivelingham, called the Meer Grounds - -

183 1

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Wivelingham aforesaid, forty acres and three roods, (that is to say) out of the several ground called Shelfould, consisting of the lots or doles of divers persons, twelve acres and three roods at the south-west end of the said lots next unto the Fens of Over; out of the several fen called Babies Hurne, thirteen acres and three roods at the north end thereof abutting upon the river Ouse; out of the several fen ground now or late of James Pascall, Gent. called Stacks, seven acres at the north-east end thereof

abutting upon Audrey Causey; and out of the several fen of John Crane, Esquire, called Little Shelfould, seven acres and one rood at the north-east corner thereof near Erith Sluce - - - -

40 3 0

Over.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Over in the said county of Cambridge, one hundred seventy-one acres; out of the fen called the Marish at the east end thereof, abutting north-westward upon the east end of the lots or doles of divers persons, extending from the place called the Haywards Swath unto the bank of the river Ouse eastward upon the several or the late inclosed grounds of Over aforesaid called Blunte Meer, and southward upon the residue of the said fen called the Marish -

171 0 0

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INSULA ELIEN IN COM. CANTABR.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Haddenham in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, three hundred seventy-eight acres, (that is to say) out of the fen called Gaul Fen three hundred and nine acres at the east part thereof abutting upon Berry Fen; and the residue, being sixty-nine acres, out of the common fen called Berry Fen aforesaid, at the west side thereof, abutting upon Gaul Fen aforesaid

Haddenham.

378 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Haddenham aforesaid, one hundred thirty and eight acres, (that is to say)



out of the several fen ground called Ewell Fen, thirty-six acres and two roods at the west part thereof, abutting upon Gaul Fen and the Delfs in Haddenham; out of the mow fen called Lindon Doles, nine acres at the south side thereof, abutting upon the river Ouse; out of the several fen called Priest's Croft, one acre at the south end thereof next the river Ouse; out of the greater fen ground called Hill Doles, twelve acres and twenty perches at the north side thereof next Haddenham small fen; out of the lesser fen ground called Hill Doles three acres, one rood and twenty perches, at the north end thereof next Sutton Mead lands; out of the several fen grounds called Over Delfs and Pingles, being eighteen in number, lying on the south side of Erith causey, between the several fen grounds of Edward Carter and Henry White, forty-two acres, as the same is already by lockspits or small trenches proportionably divided and set out at the south end of every of the said eighteen several fen grounds, abutting upon the river Ouse; out of the several fen grounds called Nether Delfs, lying between Erith Causey and the said fen called Gaul Fen, being fifteen in number, twenty-nine acres, three roods and twenty-two perches, as the same is already also set out proportionably, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said fifteen several fen grounds; out of the several fen ground now or late in the tenure or occupation of Henry White, lying next Ewell Fen, one acre and ten perches at the north end there-

of, abutting upon the bank of Ewell Fen  
 aforesaid; out of the several fen grounds  
 now or late in the tenure or occupation of  
 Thomas Pamplin, Gent., lying on the north  
 side of Erith Causey, two roods at the east  
 end thereof, abutting upon the angle of the  
 said Causey; out of the several fen ground  
 called Calley Croft, lying on the north side  
 of Erith Causey, two roods and eight perches  
 at the west end thereof, abutting upon the  
 said Causey; out of the several fen ground  
 of Humberston March, Esq. lying on the  
 north side of Erith Causey, one acre at the  
 west end thereof; out of the several fen  
 ground now or late of Richard Wine, Gent.,  
 lying on the north side of Erith Causey, near  
 Erith Bridge, one rood and ten perches at  
 the east part thereof, abutting upon the said  
 ground of Humberston March aforesaid;  
 and out of the several fen ground lying be-  
 tween Audrey Causey and Ewell Fen afore-  
 said, two roods and thirty perches at the  
 south end thereof - - - 138 0 0

Wilburton.

Out of the common fen grounds of or be-  
 longing to Wilburton, in the said Isle of Ely  
 and county of Cambridge, one hundred se-  
 venteen acres and two roods out of the fens  
 called Skeg Fen and Rush Fen, at the west  
 sides of the said fens, abutting upon the  
 common fens of Haddenham, the river Ouse  
 and the hard lands of Wilburton aforesaid - 117 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
 longing to Wilburton aforesaid, six acres  
 and two roods, (that is to say) out of the  
 several fen ground of Sir Miles Sandys,  
 Knight, fifteen perches abutting upon Skeg

Fen; out of the several ground now or late of — Ware, yeoman, thirty perches abutting also upon Skeg Fen; out of the several fen ground now or late of — Sanders, yeoman, fifteen perches abutting also upon Skeg Fen; and out of the several fen ground of Thomas Towers, Gent., six acres and twenty perches at the west part thereof, abutting also upon Skeg Fen and the bank of the river Ouse - - 6 2 0

Stretham and  
Thetford.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Stretham and Thetford in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, one hundred twenty-two acres and two roods out of the mow fen of Stretham aforesaid, called Chair Fen Plain, at the east side thereof, abutting upon Chittering Dike and the river Ouse - - - 172 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Stretham and Thetford aforesaid, seventy-seven acres and two roods, (that is to say) out of the several fen grounds of Sir Miles Sandys, Knight, sixty acres; out of the several fen ground called Fidwell Fen, at the south-east end thereof, abutting upon the severals of Wickin and the Joyst Fen in Water Beach; out of the several fen ground called Langmore, two acres and one rood at the north-west end thereof, next the common fen called Gould's Moor; and out of the several fen grounds of Thetford aforesaid, called the Boat's Gangs, fifteen acres and one rood; (viz.) the intire several fen ground called the Long Roods, abutting upon Wickin Fen, containing nine acres one rood and ten perches; the intire fen ground



called the Short Roods, abutting upon Soham Fen, containing two acres and five-and-twenty perches; out of the several ground of Oliver Cromwel, Gent. called Moonshell, thirty-five perches at the south side thereof, abutting upon the said fen called Short Roods; out of the several fen of John Gislingham, Gent. called the Lot, thirty-five perches at the east end thereof, abutting upon the Common Lots; the intire fen ground called Common Lots, abutting upon the Long Roods aforesaid, containing two acres and three roods; and the intire Common Lot lying near Harrimore House, between the rivers Ouse and Grant, containing two roods and fifteen perches - 77 2 0

Ely.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to the town and city of Ely, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, one thousand three hundred and forty acres, (that is to say) out of the common fen called Little Shell or East Eastmore, ninety-two acres at the west side thereof, abutting upon the common fen called Great Shell; and the said intire common fen called Great Shell, containing one thousand two hundred and forty-eight acres - 1340 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging unto the town and city of Ely aforesaid, two hundred twenty and four acres, (that is to say) out of the several fen ground of or belonging to Shippey Farm, forty acres at the south part thereof, abutting upon the common fen called Great Shell; out of the several fen ground of or belonging to Quanie Farm near Stuntny, one intire fen ground

called the Bye, encompassed with the common fens of Ely, containing twelve acres; out of the several fen ground of William March, Esq. called Spain Delf, lying near unto Shippey Farm, eight acres at the north-east end thereof; out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Thorney Farm, forty-seven acres at the south-east part thereof, abutting upon the several fen grounds of Norney Farm and the several fen ground of Sir Robert Heath, Knight, in Soham, called Great Metlam; out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Norney Farm, seventy-nine acres abutting westward upon the Black Bank, northward upon the grounds of Thorney Farm, and southward and eastward upon the residue of the same fen ground of Norney; out of the several fen grounds late of or belonging to Sir Simon Steward, Knight, lying in Stuntny Farm, two and twenty acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon the grounds of Norney Farm; out of eight several fen grounds lying between the common fens called Dunstal, the several grounds of Thorney Farm and Stock Lode, twelve acres, as the same is lockspitted and set out at the north-east ends of the same grounds abutting upon Stock Lode aforesaid and the grounds of Thorney Farm aforesaid; and out of the several fen grounds of Bream Farm, four acres at the south-east end thereof next the River Ouse

- 224 0 0

Out of the common fens of or belonging to Stuntny, thirty-two acres abutting eastward upon Soham Causey, and southward



upon the common fens of Soham, called the  
Borders. 32 0 0

Out of the intercommon fen grounds of or  
belonging to Ely Downham and Littleport  
in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cam-  
bridge, or to some or one of them, four  
thousand two hundred and ninety acres;  
(that is to say) one intire common fen called  
Lowell Moor, containiing one hundred  
seventy-four acres; and the residue, being  
four thousand one hundred and sixteen  
acres, out of the great common fen called  
Whelp Moor abutting north-eastward upon  
part of the same fen, lying near Priests  
Houses, the several fen grounds of Thomas  
Gibbon, Esq.; the several fen grounds  
called Redmore Grounds, and the several  
fen grounds of William Heveningham, Esq.;  
and southward upon the said common fen  
called Lowell Moor; the common fen of  
Ely, called Great Shell, and the several fen  
grounds of Shippy Farm and Spain Delf, and  
oward the north-west upon the river Ouse 4290 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
longing to Littleport aforesaid seven hun-  
dred acres; (that is to say) out of the several  
imbanked fen ground of or belonging to Sir  
Ailes Sandys, Knight and Baronet, three  
hundred acres at the north-east end thereof,  
butting north-westward upon the several  
fen ground of Thomas Towers, Gent. north-  
eastward upon the several fen ground of Sir  
Henry Willoughby, Knight, and Thomas  
Tyrel, Gent. and south-eastward upon a  
close, parcel of the same imbanked grounds,  
and the bank of the said grounds near unto

the house called the Chain House near the river Ouse; out of the several fen ground of or belonging to Thomas Towers, Gent, called Crouchmore, seventy acres abutting upon the several fen grounds of Sir Henry Willoughby, Knight, and the said inbanked grounds of Sir Miles Sandys aforesaid; out of the several fen ground of or belonging to William Hawkins, Gent. called also Crouchmore, fifty-five acres at the north part of the same fen, abutting upon the common fen called Hale Fen, and the several fen ground of Sir Henry Willoughby, Knight; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Tyrell, Gent, lying near Priests Houses, twenty-seven acres at the west end of the same ground; out of the several fen ground late of Nicholas Milsop, lying near Apeshall, called the Wood-ground, fourteen acres at the north-west part of the same ground, abutting upon Westmore and the several grounds of Apeshall Farm aforesaid; out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Apeshall Farm aforesaid thirty acres; out of the several fen called Garners, abutting upon the common fen called Westmore and the river Welney; out of the several fen grounds now or late of Henry Milsop, Gent. twenty-acres; out of the several fen called Archdeacon Croft, at the west part thereof abutting upon the said several fen ground of Thomas Milsop and the said river of Welney; out of the several fen ground called Code's Croft, five acres, two roods, and twelve perches at the north-west side of the same ground; out of the several fen ground



f Thomas Crab, five acres, two roods, and twelve perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Roger Collin, three acres, one rood, and ten perches at the south-east side thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Smith, adjoining to the Carriage Croft, one acre, three roods, and twenty-five perches at the north-west side of the same ground; out of the adjoining several fen ground now or late of John Horne, one acre, three roods, and twenty-five perches at the south-east side of the same ground; out of the several fen ground of John Hand, four acres, one rood, and thirty perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of Widow Alderton, four acres, one rood, and thirty perches at the south-east side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of William Cooke, three acres and twenty perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Thomas Wadle, three roods and twenty perches at the east side thereof; out of the several fen ground of William Coats, lying near Cambridge Croft, one acre and thirty-two perches at the north end thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of Andrew Neale, three roods and twenty perches at the north end thereof; out of the adjoining several ground of Thomas Crabbe, one acre and twenty perches at the west end thereof next Welney River; out of the several fen ground of John Vernell, one acre and fifteen perches at the north side thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Day adjoining unto Bell Croft, five acres, three roods, and twenty-five perches

at the south side thereof; out of the several fen ground late of Jane Chambers, two acres, two roods, and thirty perches at the eastern corner thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of William Smith, one acre, three roods, and fifteen perches at the south side thereof; out of the several fen ground of George Wilson, one acre, three roods, and fifteen perches at the north side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground now or late of John Payne, one acre, two roods, and thirty perches at the south side of the same ground; out of the several fen ground of John Goates, lying near the grounds of Apshall Farm, three acres, one rood, and thirty perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of Robert Aspland, one acre, two roods, and twenty-five perches at the south-east side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground now or late of Thomas Milsop, one acre, two roods, and twenty-five perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Robert Groom, two acres, one rood, and twenty-five perches at the south-east side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, six acres and fifteen perches at the north end of the ground adjoining to New Dike; out of the several fen ground of John Milsop, six acres, one rood, and ten perches at the south-east side thereof abutting upon New Dike; out of the several fen ground of Henry Meadows, seven acres, two roods, and thirty perches at the west side of the same ground; out of the several fen ground now or late of Robert



Alexander, one acre, two roods, and twenty perches at the east side thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of William Haukins, two acres and ten perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of John Crabbe, adjoining to the ground called the Common Acre, three acres at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Thomas Milsop the elder, adjoining to Archdeacon Croft, three acres and one rood at the south end of the same ground abutting upon Welney River; out of the several fen ground now or late of Richard White, adjoining to the afore-mentioned ground of Thomas Milsop, one acre, one rood, and fifteen perches at the south-east corner of the same ground next Welney River; out of the several fen ground now or late of William Wright, three acres and three roods on the west side thereof adjoining to the ground belonging to Welney Chapel; out of the said several fen ground belonging to Welney Chapel, one acre at the east corner thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of Christopher Clark, two acres and three roods at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Nicholas Veres, one acre, two roods, and twenty perches at the south-east side of the same ground; out of the several fen ground now or late of Richard Mares, one acre, one rood, and twenty perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Thomas Sharp, three acres, two roods, and twenty perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Thomas



Wilson, near adjoining to the fen ground called the Hundred Acres, three acres and one rood at the east side thereof; out of the adjoining fen ground now or late of Thomas Milsop, nine acres, one rood, and twelve perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Richard Ward, three acres at the east part thereof; out of the several ground of Robert Lukin, Esq.; being part of the ground called the Hundred Acres, fourteen acres at the west side thereof; out of the several ground of Widow Crab, being also part of the ground called the Hundred Acres, sixteen acres and three roods at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Cole, Gent. adjoining to the ground called Garners, seven acres, two roods, and ten perches at the east part thereof abutting upon Welney River; out of the several fen ground now or late of William Johnson, four acres and two roods at the north-west corner thereof abutting upon Welney River; out of the several fen grounds of — Goats, Yeoman, adjoining to the Common Acre, three roods and ten perches at the north-west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Day, adjoining to the common acre, one acre, two roods, and twenty perches at the south-west end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Plumme and Thomas Clarke, one acre and ten perches at the south end thereof next the wood grounds of Apshall Farm; out of the several fen grounds of Samuel Kinswick, at the south end thereof, one acre, one rood, and ten perches; out of the several ground now or late of Thomas

aynter, one acre, two roods, and twelve  
 erches at the south-west end thereof; out  
 of the several fen ground of John Hand,  
 adjoining unto the fen ground called Apshall  
 foresaid, one acre, one rood, and twenty  
 erches at the south-west end thereof; out  
 of the several fen ground now or late of  
 Thomas Boughton, three roods and twenty  
 erches at the north-west part of the same  
 ground; out of the several fen ground now  
 or late of John Glasier, one acre and thirty-  
 ve perches at the north-west end thereof;  
 out of the several fen ground now or late of  
 Thomas Milsop, called Whinne-bush Croft,  
 three acres and twenty perches at the north-  
 west part thereof; and out of the several  
 ground called Cambridge Crofts, eight  
 acres, two roods, and ten perches at the west  
 side thereof abutting upon Welney River  
 and the Mare Fen - - - 700, 0 0

Out of the several fen ground of or be-  
 longing to Thomas Gibbon, Esq., lying  
 between the common fen called Whelp  
 Moor, and the river of Brandon, one hun-  
 dred and ninety acres at the south end  
 thereof abutting upon the fen grounds called  
 Redmore Grounds - - - 190 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds called  
 Redmore Grounds, lying between the said  
 common fen called Whelpmore and the river  
 of Brandon, one hundred twenty-six acres  
 at the south part of the same grounds, abut-  
 ting upon the several fen ground of Wil-  
 iam Heveningham, Esq., and the said river  
 of Brandon - - - 126 10 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or be-

Redmore  
 Grounds.

Downham in  
 the Isle.



longing to Downham, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, called West Fen, three hundred eighty-eight acres and two roods abutting south-westward upon the common fen grounds called Pye Moor and Ashwell Moor - - - 388 2

Out of the several fen ground of John Carter, lying near Downham Hive, one acre and two roods at the north-east corner thereof 1 2

Westmoor.

Out of the great intercommon fen called Westmoor and Cranmoor, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, five thousand acres, (that is to say) three thousand acres on the south side of Bedford River, bounded north-westward with the same river, eastward with Welney River and the several fen grounds of Littleport and Welney adjoining to the said river of Welney, and westward with Oxewillow Lode; and the residue, being two thousand acres, out of that part of the said fen that lieth on the north side of Bedford River aforesaid, abutting upon the said river and Oxewillow Lode aforesaid - 5000 0

Coveney.

Out of the common fen ground called Hale Fen, lying in or near Coveney in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, one hundred and eighty acres, abutting eastward upon the hard lands of Coveney, and the gravel-way leading to Coveney, and on all other parts upon the residue of the same fen 180 0 0

Out of one other common fen ground lying in or near Coveney aforesaid, called Ashwell Moor or Sedge Fen, four hundred twenty-three acres, abutting eastward upon Pye Moor, westward upon the several fen ground of Coveney called Hale Fen, and

northward upon West Fen in Downham  
aforesaid 423 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
longing to Coveney aforesaid, called the  
Great Dams, one hundred fifty-seven acres,  
three roods and ten perches; (that is to say)  
out of the several fen ground of John Da-  
vies, three acres, two roods and ten perches  
at the north-west end thereof; out of the  
several fen ground of Thomas Whine, junior,  
three acres, one rood and twenty-four per-  
ches at the south-east end thereof; out of  
the several fen ground of William Smith,  
two acres, three roods and thirty-six perches  
at the south-west side thereof; out of the  
several fen ground now or late of Thomas  
Watson, three acres, three roods and twenty  
perches at the north-west end thereof; out  
of the several fen ground now or late of  
John Watson, two acres, three roods and  
thirty perches at the north-west end thereof;  
out of the several fen ground of Joan Pope,  
widow, ten acres, two roods and ten perches  
at the north-west end thereof; out of the  
several fen ground of John Linwood, eigh-  
teen acres and fifteen perches at the north-  
west end thereof; out of the several fen  
ground of Richard Gooday, seventeen acres,  
three roods and ten perches at the north-  
west end thereof; out of the several fen  
ground of Thomas Smith, three acres and  
one rood at the east corner thereof; out of  
the several fen ground of John Smith, three  
acres and thirty-five perches at the south-  
east corner thereof; out of the several fen  
ground of Thomas Winter, adjoining to



Coveney Lode, nine acres at the north-east side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Robert Matthews, eight acres, three roods and ten perches at the north side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Humberstone March, Esq., abutting upon Coveney Lode and the way leading unto Biall Fen, eighteen acres and twenty perches at the south-east end thereof; one intire fen ground of William Sharp, Gent., lying between Biall Fen and the way leading from Biall Fen to Coveney, containing sixteen acres and two roods; out of the several fen ground of Peter Rider, one acre and thirty perches at the south-west end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Whinne, three acres, two roods and ten perches at the east end thereof; one intire several fen ground, lying between Biall Fen and the ground of Robert Andrews, containing fourteen acres and two roods; and out of the several fen ground of Peter Andrews, sixteen acres, one rood and thirty perches at the east end thereof - - - 157 3 1 10

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Coveney aforesaid, called the New Dams, fifty-five acres, two roods, and fifteen perches; (that is to say) out of the several fen ground of Francis Sanderson, two acres and one rood at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Mary Rusden, one acre, one rood and fifteen perches at the north end thereof; one intire several fen ground of Robert Matthews abutting westward upon the hard lands of Coveney, containing fourteen



acres; out of the several fen ground of John Cocke, three acres at the east end hereof; out of the several fen ground called the Town Dam, three acres at the east end thereof; and three intire several fen grounds of William Sharp, Gent. lying together and abutting upon Ashwell Moor and the hard lands of Coveney, containing thirty-two acres - - - 55 2 15

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Coveney aforesaid, called Hall fen, thirty acres, three roods and thirty perches, at the east side thereof abutting upon Ashwell Moor - - - 30 3 30

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Coveney aforesaid, called Block floors, nineteen acres, one rood, and five perches; (that is to say) out of the three several fen grounds of John Watson, Agnes Watson, and Hellen Watson, one rood a-piece at the north ends of the same grounds; out of the several fen grounds of Moses Whitecake, three roods and thirty-four perches at the north-west end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Gavestock, three roods and thirty perches at the north-west end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Mary Allen, three roods and thirty-five perches at the south-west side thereof; out of the two several fen grounds of John Kaye and John Hill, Clerk, one rood and thirty-eight perches a-piece at the north-west ends of the same grounds; out of the several fen ground of Robert Andrews, one acre and two roods at the north-west end thereof;

out of the several fen ground of Henry Biddle, one acre, two roods and ten perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Katharine Winter, five acres and thirty perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Elizabeth Barber, three acres, three roods and ten perches at the west side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Richard Gunton, one rood and thirty-four perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Meakes, one rood and twenty-six perches at the north end thereof; and one intire fen of William Sharp, Gent. adjoining eastward upon the hard lands of Coveney, containing one acre and three roods

19 1

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Coveney aforesaid, called the Pingles, thirteen acres, one rood, and twenty perches; (that is to say) one intire several fen ground of Thomas Winter, lying between the hard lands of Coveney and Coveney Lode, containing eleven acres; and out of the several fen grounds now or late of Thomas Hobbie and Francis Sanderson, two acres, one rood and twenty perches at the north-west end thereof

13 1 20

Biall Fen.

Out of the great intercommon fen ground, called Biall Fen, in the said Isle of Ely, and county of Cambridge, two thousand and two hundred acres; (that is to say) two thousand acres abutting upon the north-west side of Bedford River, and westward upon Langwood Fen and Wicham Mead Lands, and south-westward upon Gaule



Fen in Mepall; and two hundred acres abutting upon the south-east side of Bedford River and Oxwillow Lode - 2200 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Maney, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, called the Dams, abutting upon Stoney Fen, two hundred and thirty acres at the west side thereof abutting upon Twisle Lode - 230 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Maney aforesaid, twenty acres; (that is to say) out of the several fen grounds of Robert Neale, adjoining to the Dams of Maney aforesaid, ten acres abutting upon Twisle Lode and Stoney Fen in Dodington; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Sisson, lying next Cranmore, three acres at the east side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Richard Wellbie, thirty-six perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of George Wright, one rood and six perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Nathaniel Thinne, two roods at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Sisson, two roods and twenty perches at the south corner thereof; out of the several fen ground of William Jenes, one rood and thirty perches at the east corner thereof; out of the several fen ground of Oliver Galloway, two roods and thirty perches at the south end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Jeremy Freeman, one rood and thirty-four perches at the west end thereof; out of the several Holt fen grounds of John Goulden,

two roods and twenty perches at the south end thereof; out of the seven Holt fen ground of John Hill, twenty perches at the south end thereof; out of the several fen ground of William Harrison, two roods at the south end thereof; and out of the several fen ground of William Freeman, two acres, two roods and four perches at the south-east side thereof - 20 0 0

Wichford.

Out of the common fen ground called Pye Moor near Wichford, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, one hundred fifty-two acres abutting upon Downham West Fen and Ashwell Moor - 152 0 0

Gruntley Fen.

Out of the common fen ground called Gruntley Fen, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, four hundred twenty-six acres abutting north-westward upon the hard lands, and on all other parts encompassed with the residue of the said fen - 426 0 0

Wicham.

Out of the common fen ground of or belonging to Wicham in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, called Widdon, ten acres abutting westward upon the several fen grounds of Mepall called Widdon, and northward upon the several fen grounds of Wicham called Cawcroft - 10 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Wicham called Cawcroft, consisting of the lots or doles of divers persons, twenty-nine acres and two roods, as the same is lockspitted and set out at the north end of the same lots next Biall Fen - 29 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Wicham aforesaid, called Wicham Mead Lands, thirty acres and two roods; (that is to say)

out of the several fen grounds of George Peacock, Thomas Gooday and John Merell, three acres and one rood, as the same is lockspitted, divided and set out at the west end of the same grounds abutting upon Mepall Gaul Fen; out of the lots or doles lying between the last mentioned grounds and the lot or dole of John Belwood, belonging to divers persons, twelve acres, three roods and ten perches, at the north-west end thereof abutting upon Block Fen; out of the lots or doles lying between the great lot of George Peacock and the old Dairy House of John Merrell, belonging unto divers persons, seven acres, one rood and thirty perches at the south end thereof, abutting upon Biall Fen; out of the two lots of the said John Merrell and of ——— Chapman, Gent., called North Doles, seven acres, as the same is lockspitted, divided and set out, at the north ends of the same doles abutting upon Langwood Fen - - 30 2 0

Mepall.

Out of the common fen ground of or belonging to Mepall, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, called Gaule Fen, fifty-three acres abutting upon the north side of Bedford River, and upon Biall Fen - - - 53 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Mepall aforesaid, called Widdon, eight acres; (that is to say) out of the several fen ground of Robert Brown, two roods and two perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of ——— Clinch, lying next but one to the said ground of Robert Brown, three roods



and eighteen perches at the north-east end thereof next Wicham severals; out of the adjoining several fen grounds of Thomas Whinne, three roods and seventeen perches at the north-east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of ——— Bradford, Gent. one rood and thirty-five perches at the east end thereof; out of the several fen grounds of William Smith, two roods and twelve perches at the eastern end thereof; out of the adjoining several fen ground of Thomas Aspland, one acre at the eastern end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Phippe, two roods and two perches at the eastern end thereof; out of the several fen ground of George Aspland, one rood and thirty-four perches at the east end thereof; out of the several fen ground in the occupation of Widow Smith, one rood and thirty perches at the east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of Edmund Aspland, one rood and thirty perches at the east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Addams, three roods and eight perches at the east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of John Whiting, two roods and eight perches at the east end thereof; and out of the several fen ground of William Whinne, two roods and four perches at the east end thereof - - - - - 8 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Mercy Carter, widow, belonging to Mepall aforesaid, twenty-five acres at the north end of the ground called the Holts - - - - - 25 0 0

Out of the several fen ground in Mepall

aforesaid, called Fur Fen, twelve acres,  
three roods and four perches at the south  
side thereof abutting upon Bedford River 12 3 4

Out of the several fen ground of ———  
Gederil, Gent. lying between Gaul Fen and  
Wicham Mead lands, six acres and two  
roods at the north-west end thereof - 6 2 0

Out of the several fen ground of John  
Phippe, lying in Mepall aforesaid, abutting  
upon Block Fen, one acre and twenty-two  
perches at the south end thereof - 1 0 22

Out of the several fen ground of ———  
Wigmore, Gent. lying in Mepall aforesaid,  
and joining unto Block Fen, one acre, two  
roods and thirty perches at the north-east  
end thereof - 1 2 30

Out of the several fen ground of Thomas  
Aspland, lying in Mepall aforesaid, adjoining  
also unto Block Fen, one acre and one  
rood, and twenty-four perches at the north  
end thereof - 1 1 24

Out of the several or late inclosed fen  
grounds of Mepall aforesaid, called Block  
Fen or Block Moor, lying on the north side  
of Bedford River, one hundred thirty-nine  
acres and two roods; (that is to say) out of  
the grounds of Thomas Whinne, and divers  
others, lying together undivided, adjoining  
unto North Fen in Sutton, fourteen acres,  
three roods and five perches abutting upon  
Bedford River aforesaid; one intire fen  
ground of John Whinne, abutting upon  
Sutton North Fen, containing one acre and  
two roods; out of the several fen grounds  
of Thomas Aspland, John Adams, James  
Adcroft, Richard Holding, William Bird,

Mepall seve-  
rals.

and Widow Ratham, adjoining unto Sutton North Fen, eleven acres, three roods and ten perches, as the same is proportionably set out and lock-spitted, at the west ends of the same grounds next Sutton North Fen aforesaid; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Aspland the Elder, adjoining to Sutton North Fen, three acres and thirty perches at the north side thereof; out of the several fen ground of Widow Brown, adjoining upon Sutton North Fen, two acres, two roods and ten perches at the west end thereof; out of the several fen grounds lying between the said ground of Widow Brown, North Fen in Sutton, the grounds of Chatteresse, and the way in Me-pall Block Fen, sixty acres, three roods and thirty-four perches, proportionably set out, lockspitted and divided from every of the said grounds; out of the several fen ground of ——— Wigmore, Gent. abutting upon Bedford River and the way in Block Fen, one acre abutting upon Bedford River aforesaid; out of the several fen ground of Mercy Carter, Widow, lying between Fur Fen and the way in Block Fen, eighteen acres and fifteen perches at the north end of the same grounds; out of the several ground of George Wabie, adjoining unto Fur Fen, three acres at the east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of George Aspland, adjoining upon two fen grounds of Widow Ratham, two acres, three roods and thirty-two perches; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Whinne, lying between the grounds of

rd Cooper and John Adams, three  
 at the west end of the same ground;  
 f the several fen ground of John  
 s, lying between the grounds of Tho-  
 Whinne and William Whinne, three  
 and ten perches at the north side  
 f; out of the next adjoining several  
 ound now or late of William Whinne,  
 acres and one rood at the east end  
 f; out of the next adjoining several  
 ound now or late of Thomas Whinne,  
 acres, two roods and eighteen perches:  
 nt of the several fen grounds now or  
 of Richard Cooper, adjoining upon  
 Fen in Chateresse, six acres, two roods,  
 thirty-six perches at the north side  
 f - - - - - 139 2 0

of the several fen ground called Middle  
 lying in Sutton in the said Isle of Ely  
 unty of Cambridge, thirty-seven acres  
 ng upon the south side of Bedford

Sutton on the  
 Isle.

- - - - - 37 0 0

t of the fen grounds in Sutton afore-  
 called North Mead-lands and South  
 -lands, one hundred seventy-five acres,  
 ng upon the Middle Moor aforesaid,  
 pon the north side of the said New  
 called Bedford River - - - 175 0 0

t of the several fen ground of Perry  
 el, Gent. lying in Sutton aforesaid,  
 the place called Sutton Gravel, and  
 passed with divers osier Holts, one  
 and one rood at the east end thereof 1 1 0

t of four other antient several fen  
 ds in Sutton aforesaid, lying near Erith  
 ey, called Cocks Nests, four acres and

three roods ; (that is to say) out of the grounds belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Ely, one acre, two roods and twenty perches, at the south side thereof ; out of the ground of ——— Drury, Gent. one acre, two roods, and ten perches at the south side thereof ; out of the ground of ——— Carter, Gent. three roods and twenty perches at the south side thereof ; and out of the grounds of John Taylour, two roods and thirty perches at the south side thereof - - -

4 3 0

Out of the several or late inclosed fen grounds of or belonging to Sutton aforesaid, lying on both sides of the said New River called Bedford River, eight hundred sixty and two acres ; (that is to say) out of the several and late inclosed fen grounds lying on the north side of the said New River, six hundred acres ; (*viz.*) out of the several fen grounds called Little Halwood, forty-three acres, one rood and fifteen perches at the south part of the same ground, abutting upon the fen ground called North Mead-lands and the West Water ; out of the several and late inclosed fen grounds lying in West Fen on the north side of Bedford River, being one hundred and sixteen in number, two hundred fifty-eight acres, three roods and eleven perches, as the same is already by lockspits or small trenches proportionally set out and divided from every of the said hundred and sixteen several fen grounds ; out of the several and late inclosed fen grounds lying in Middle Fen, on the north side of the said river, being eleven in number, twenty-three acres and eleven per-



hes, as the same is also already by lockspits  
r small trenches proportionally set out and  
ivided from every of the said eleven several  
en grounds; out of the several and late in-  
closed fen grounds lying in North Fen, on  
the north side of the said river, being ninety-  
four in number, two hundred seventy-four  
acres, three roods and three perches, as the  
same is also already by lockspits or small  
trenches proportionally set out and divided  
from every of the said ninety-four several  
en grounds - - -

600 0 0

Sutton, South  
of Bedford  
River.

Out of the several or late inclosed fen  
grounds of or belonging to Sutton aforesaid,  
lying on the south side of Bedford River,  
being one hundred twenty-two in number,  
two hundred sixty-two acres, as the same is  
already by lockspits or small trenches pro-  
portionally set out, severed and divided from  
every of the said one hundred twenty-two  
inclosed grounds; (that is to say) out of the  
inclosed fen grounds called Tween Ditches,  
being eight in number, fourteen acres, as the  
same is proportionally set out as aforesaid;  
out of the late inclosed grounds called  
Manyman's Doles, lying between Sutton  
Causey and the way leading to South  
Mead-lands on the south side of Bedford  
River, being four in number, five acres, two  
roods and twenty-four perches, as the same  
is also set out and divided as aforesaid. Out  
of the late inclosed fen grounds, lying be-  
tween South Mead-lands, the said grounds  
called Tween Ditches, the said grounds called  
Manyman's Doles, Sutton, Gravell, the hard  
lands of Sutton, the grounds of divers men

in South Fen lying undivided, the ground of Robert Gunton abutting upon Haddenham Fen, and the common fen ground of Haddenham called Small Fen, being fifty-seven in number, ninety-one acres, one rood and thirteen perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed fen grounds, lying between the fen ground of Robert Peacock, abutting upon Haddenham Common aforesaid, the several fen ground of — Jederel, Gent. lying in South Fen aforesaid, the hard lands of Sutton, the common fen grounds of Wentworth, and the said common fen of Haddenham called Small Fen, being twelve in number, seventy-two acres and ten perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed fen grounds lying between Sutton Gravel, North Mead-lands, and the grounds in West Fen, and called also Manyman's Doles, being nine in number, thirteen acres, two roods and sixteen perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed fen ground called the Berry Lot, fourteen acres and seventeen perches, as the same is set out and divided as aforesaid, at the south-west part thereof; out of the late inclosed fen grounds lying in West Fen, on the said south side of Bedford River, being fourteen in number, twenty-two acres, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed fen grounds lying between West Fen aforesaid, the Gaultway and the hard lands of Sutton, being four in number, six acres and twenty

perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; and out of the late inclosed fen grounds lying between the said Gaultway, the said New River called Bedford River, the grounds of Mepall, and the hard lands of Sutton, being thirteen in number, twenty-three acres and twenty perches, as the same is also divided and set out as aforesaid - - - 262 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Chartresse, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, three thousand eight hundred and twenty-six acres; (that is to say) out of the common fen called Normore, one thousand six hundred and ten acres, abutting upon Dodington Leame and the hard lands of Honey; out of the common fen called Langwood Fen, nine hundred and twenty acres adjoining upon Block Fen, and the fen called Wenney or Whinney Fen, and the Mead Lands of Wickham; out of the said common fen ground called Wenney or Whinney Fen, three hundred acres abutting upon Langwood Fen and Block Fen aforesaid; out of the common fen ground called Rough West Moor, five hundred ninety-six acres at the north part of the same fen, abutting upon the common fen called Beeselings, and the hard lands called Willy Heath; and out of the common fen grounds called Curfe and Gore, four hundred acres, abutting upon Dodington Leame and the gravel way near the old Eawe leading unto Dodington - - - 3826 0 0

Chartresse.

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging unto ——— Wendy, Esq., lying

in Chartresse aforesaid, being parcel of the several fen called Abbot's Holwood, two hundred thirty-four acres, abutting upon the several grounds in Chartresse aforesaid, called the Old Hanes, and upon the West Water 234 0 0

Out of the fen ground in the several possession of Besteney Betts, Esq. called Block Fen, eighty-nine acres and a half, abutting upon Wicham Meadlands and Longwood Fen aforesaid 89 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds in Chartresse aforesaid, called the Old Hanes, one hundred and five acres, one rood and twenty perches, as the same is already proportionally by lockspits or small trenches divided and set out; (that is to say) out of the ground called the Town Meadow, two acres, two roods and thirty-three perches at the south-east part thereof; out of the ground of Besteney Bruce, three acres, one rood and thirty perches at the north-east part thereof; out of the ground of Widow Matthews, four acres, two roods and thirty perches at the south end thereof; out of the ground of ——— Trice, Gent., called Pickerell's Fen, four acres and one rood at the south end thereof; out of the ground of Thomas Keete, two acres, two roods and five perches at the north-west end thereof; out of the ground of John Legerton, two acres, three roods and thirty-two perches at the north-west end thereof; out of the ground of William Dring, four acres and six perches at the north-east part thereof; out of the ground of Richard Reade and William Dring, two acres, three

roods and ten perches, at the north-east part thereof; the intire fen ground of Robert Vintner, Gent., lying between the grounds of Besteney Bruce aforesaid and Richard Campe, containing eleven acres, three roods and twenty perches; out of the said ground of Thomas Campe, one acre and two roods at the east end thereof; out of the ground of John Tye, one acre and two roods at the east part thereof; out of the ground of Robert Rash, Reynold Walsham and Thomas Curde, five acres, two roods and fifteen perches, set out as aforesaid, at the east part of the same ground; out of the ground of Widow Duke, two acres at the north part thereof; out of the ground of Thomas Tye, two acres, two roods and twelve perches, at the north-west part thereof; out of the grounds of Robert Bruce, Robert Reade, William Dring, and Robert Edges, seven acres, and one rood, set out as aforesaid, at the east ends of the said grounds; out of the adjoining grounds of Martin Bend and Richard Cooper, four acres and one rood, set out as aforesaid, at the east ends of the said grounds; out of the grounds of Richard Lambe, John Reade, Thomas Wright, Thomas Rose, and John Reason, seven acres and ten perches, set out as aforesaid, at the east ends of the said grounds; out of the ground of ——— Castle, Gent. lying next the several ground of ——— Wendy, Esq. in Abbots Holwood aforesaid, nine acres, two roods and ten perches at the north-east corner thereof; out of the ground of Thomas Reade, one acre, three roods and thirty-two perches at the west part thereof;



one intire fen ground of Richard Dring, lying between the last-mentioned ground of Thomas Reade and the ground of Thomas Campe, abutting upon the said several ground of ——— Wendye aforesaid, containing seven acres, two roods and ten perches; out of the ground of John Rutter, six acres, two roods and five perches at the east side thereof, abutting upon the ground of Thomas Campe; and out of the said ground of Thomas Campe, lying next the several fen grounds of Sutton called the Middle, eight acres and three roods, abutting upon the said grounds in Sutton - 105 1 20

Out of the several fen grounds in Chartresse aforesaid, called Honey Fen, forty acres at the south part of the same grounds, abutting upon Langwood Fen and Biall Fen - 40 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Chartresse aforesaid, called the Restiges, forty acres and twenty perches; (that is to say) one intire several fen ground of Besteney Betts, Esq. abutting upon Beeseling's Fen in Dodington, containing twenty-seven acres; out of the ground of the said Besteney Betts, called the Mile, four acres and sixteen perches at the north end thereof; out of the ground late of Sir Thomas Hedley, Knight, two acres, two roods and thirty four perches, at the east end thereof; out of the ground of William Reeve, three acres and twenty perches at the east end thereof; and out of the ground of Robert Peyton, Esq. three acres and thirty perches at the east part thereof - - - 40 0 20

Dodington,  
Wimblington,

Out of the common fen grounds of or

March, and  
Benwick.

belonging to Dodington, March, Benwick and Wimblington, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, or to some or one of them, seven thousand seven hundred ninety-seven acres; (that is to say) out of the common fen called Pulver Fen, and Turfe Fen, one thousand three hundred acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon the fen called Beeseling's Fen; out of the said common fen called Beeseling's Fen, three hundred forty-four acres at the south end thereof, abutting upon Westwater; out of the common fen called Dikamoore, seven hundred fifty-six acres, abutting upon the West Water and the bank called Copalder Bank; out of the common fen grounds called Stoney Fen and Block Fen, one thousand and seven hundred acres at the east part thereof next unto Maney; out of the common fen ground called Burrough Moor, five hundred acres, abutting upon Ransome Moor and the river Neane; out of the common fen called Whitemoor, one thousand acres at the north-west part thereof, abutting upon Plant Water and the common fens of Wisbich; out of the common fen called Wich Fen, two hundred acres at the south part thereof, abutting upon Dodington Leame and the common fen called the Stowe Fen; out of the common fen called the Middle, two hundred acres, abutting upon Plant Water and the River Neane; out of the common fen called Great Binnie Moor, four hundred and fifty acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon the fen called Gray's Fen, and the Lake called the

Old Chair; out of the common fen called Creek Fen, four hundred and sixty acres at the north-east part thereof, abutting northward upon the common fen called Ladus Fen, and upon the several fen grounds of Robert Peyton, Esq.; and out of the common fens called Horse Moor and Little Binnie Moor, eight hundred eighty-seven acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon the imbanked several ground called Horse Moor - 7797 0 0

Out of the fen called West Fen, lying between the river Neane, Plant Water, Stern Ea, or South Lake, the new dike made from Stern Ea, or South Lake aforesaid, unto West-fen Close, the said ground called West-fen Close, Whoredome Lake, and Whitlesea Dike, two thousand four hundred eighty-three acres at the south part of the same ground, abutting eastward upon Plant Water and the river Neane, southward upon Whitlesea Dike, called at that place Saddlebow Mile, and westward upon Whoredome Lake, West-fen Close, and the new Dike aforesaid - 2483 0 0

Out of the imbanked several fen ground late of Robert Peyton, Esq. one thousand five hundred and fifty acres; (that is to say) out of the several imbanked fen ground, called Stoney Fen, one thousand three hundred twenty-five acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon the fen called Chafer Fen, the fens of Maney called the Dams, and the Common Fen called Stoney Fen; and out of the imbanked several fen ground now or late in the occupation of William Sames,

Doctor of the Law, called Horse Moor, two hundred twenty-five acres at the north-east parts thereof, abutting upon the fens called Gray's Fen and Great Binnie Moor - 1550 0 0

Out of the other several fen grounds of or belonging to Dodington, March, Benwick, and Wimblington aforesaid, nine hundred and nineteen acres; (that is to say) out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Robert Peyton, Esq. one hundred thirty-three acres and twenty perches; (viz.) one intire fen lying in Norwood severals, abutting upon the several fen ground of William Wrag, containing one hundred and three acres; one other intire fen ground, abutting upon the bank of Waldersey and a several ground belonging to Henry Finimore, containing eighteen acres and three roods; and out of a several fen-ground adjoining to the part of Whitmoore, called Mary's Hurne, and the several fen ground of Thomas Tyrell, Gent. eleven acres, one rood and twenty perches at the south part thereof next Whitmoore aforesaid - 133 0 20

Out of the several fen ground of or belonging to Robert Balam, Esq. lying near Waldersey Bank, sixty-nine acres, one rood and five perches; (viz) one intire fen ground abutting upon Soaper's Drove and Waldersey Bank, containing forty-nine acres, and one rood and five perches; and out of the several fen ground lying on the east side of Norwood Causey, twenty acres at the west end of the same ground, abutting upon the several fen ground now or late of Widow Southwell - 69 1 5

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Henry Finimore, Gent. lying in March aforesaid, forty-two acres and two roods at the north-east side of the grounds called Otter Holts, lying near Plant Water, abutting upon Plant Water and the several fen ground of Thomas Shepheard - 42 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Thomas Tyrell, Gent. forty-five acres, one rood and ten perches ; (*viz*) one intire several fen ground abutting upon Plant Water and West Fen, containing thirty-five acres and two roods ; and out of his several ground lying in Norwood severals, betwixt two several grounds of Robert Peyton aforesaid, nine acres, three roods and ten perches at the west side thereof - 45 1 10

Out of the several fen ground called the Hundred Acres, lying near unto Maney, twenty-five acres at the south end thereof, next the several grounds of Maney aforesaid - 25 0 0

Out of the several fen ground called Graye's Fen, forty-four acres at the north end thereof, abutting upon Great Binnie Moor - 44 0 0

Out of the several fen ground called Reade's Fen, thirty acres, abutting upon Well Pingle and the River Neane. - 30 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Robert Pierson, twenty-one acres, one rood and thirty-five perches ; (*viz*.) out of the ground lying near unto Hobbs Dike, eight acres, three roods and ten perches at the south end thereof, abutting upon the old Drove-way ; and out of a several fen ground



of him the said Robert Pierson, lying in the fen called Edmund's Severals, twelve acres two roods and twenty-five perches at the east end thereof, abutting upon the several fen ground of Thomas Tyrell aforesaid - 21 1 35

Out of the several fen ground of William Wragge, lying near unto Grainford, nine acres and three roods and twenty-eight perches at the east side thereof - 9 3 28

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Peter Williams, thirty-four acres two roods and ten perches; (*viz.*) one intire several fen ground lying within a several fen ground of Robert Peyton aforesaid, in Norwood Severals, containing eleven acres; and out of one other ground of him the said Peter Williams, lying in the fen called Norwood Severals aforesaid, abutting upon the Old Drove-way, twenty-three acres two roods and ten perches at the east part thereof, abutting upon the last-mentioned ground of Robert Peyton aforesaid - 34 2 10

Out of the several fen ground of John Mobbe, abutting upon Waldersey Bank, ten acres and three roods at the north end thereof next the said Bank - 10 3 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to John Pierson, twenty-seven acres and two roods; (*viz.*) out of the several fen ground lying near unto Great Cross, five acres and two roods at the north part thereof; and out of one other several fen ground in the occupation of him the said John Pierson, abutting upon Plantwater and the several fen ground of Henry Finimore, twenty-two acres

at the west side thereof, next the fen called  
West Fen - 27 2 0

Out of the several fen ground of Thomas  
Shepherd, Gent. abutting upon Plantwater  
and the last-mentioned several ground of  
Henry Finimore, fifteen acres at the west  
side thereof, next West Fen aforesaid - 15 0 0

Out of the several fen ground called West-  
fen Close, twenty-five acres at the east part  
thereof, next West Fen - 25 0 0

Out of the several fen ground called  
Great Bradney Moor, abutting upon  
Bishop's Dike and the river Neane, one  
hundred sixty-two acres and two roods at  
the north end thereof, abutting upon Wittle-  
sea Dike - 162 2 0

Out of the several fen ground called  
White's Fen, one hundred and nineteen  
acres and one rood at the west part thereof,  
abutting upon Glasse Lake and Browne's Fen - 119 1 0

Out of the several fen ground in the tenure  
or occupation of William Sames, Doctor  
of the Law, called Brown's Fen or Cooke's  
Fen, fifty acres and twenty perches at the  
north-west part thereof, abutting upon  
Glasse Lake aforesaid - 50 0 20

Dodington  
small severals.

Out of nineteen other small severals be-  
longing to Dodington, March, and Benwick  
aforesaid, fifty-three acres two roods and  
thirty-two perches, as the same is already  
proportionally by lockspits or small trenches  
divided and set out from every of the said  
nineteen several fen grounds; (that is to  
say,) out of the ground of Widow Cattel,  
lying near Grainford, one acre at the south



end thereof. Out of the ground of ——— Barret, Gent. called Munford's Lands, two acres, one rood and thirteen perches at the south side thereof; out of the ground of Thomas Walsam, called also Munford's Lands, three acres two roods and five perches at the east part thereof, next unto the Drove-way; out of the ground of Thomas Emerson, one acre three roods and fifteen perches at the south side thereof; out of the ground of John Neale, two acres one rood and twenty perches at the north part thereof; out of the ground of Widow Southwald, adjoining unto Norwood Causey, five acres and twenty perches at the north part thereof, abutting upon Waldersea Bank; out of the ground of William Shepheard, lying in the several fen called Edmund's Severals, three acres and twenty perches at the south end thereof; out of the ground late of ——— Death, Yeoman, lying in the fen called Joane Sadd's Hole, two acres one rood and six perches at the east part thereof; out of the ground of John Shereman, lying near Burrough Moor, six acres three roods and fifteen perches at the east end thereof; out of the ground of Everard Buckworth, Esq. lying near Nuses Green, three acres one rood and eight perches at the west side thereof; out of the ground of Thomas Southwold, abutting upon Norwood Green, two roods at the south corner thereof; out of the several ground of Thomas Walsame, lying near Norwood Green aforesaid, three acres three roods and ten perches at the east side thereof; out of the ground of Reynold Wal-

same, lying near Norwood Green aforesaid, two acres three roods and eight perches at the west part thereof, next unto the Common; out of the ground called Wisamouth, four acres three roods and thirty-eight perches at the north-west end thereof, abutting upon the River Neane; out of a ground near Benwick called Pagdole, two acres three roods and twenty-four perches at the north-west end thereof; out of the ground of William Smith in Dike Moor, abutting upon Beeseling's Lode and the West Water, four acres at the east end thereof; out of the ground of Samuel Wright, Doctor of Divinity, lying in Dike Moor aforesaid, three roods and ten perches at the north-east end thereof; out of the ground of Widow Cole, lying near Benwick Meer, one acre at the north end thereof next West Water; and out of the ground of Robert Burroughs, lying near Benwick, one acre and twenty perches at the north-east side thereof, abutting upon the River Neane. - 53 2 3

Whitlesey.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Witlesey in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, five thousand five hundred twenty-seven acres; (that is to say) the intire common fen called North Fen, containing one thousand seventy-eight acres, abutting westward upon the mowfens of Witlesey, called Northey, northward upon the several fen grounds called Prior's Fens, eastward upon Delfe Dike, and southward upon Morton's Leam; the intire common fen lying between the New Drain or Way, extending from Witlesey to the hard lands



of Upwaod, Witlesey Dike, and the new cut or drain called Bevel's Leam, containing two thousand seventy-eight acres, abutting westward upon the said new drain or way, northward upon Witlesey Dike, and south-eastward upon the said new drain called Bevel's Leam; the intire common fen, called South Pingle, containing fifty-nine acres, abutting westward upon the hard lands of Lipney, northward upon the causey leading into Eldernel, and the several grounds of Eldernel, and southward upon Eastrea Lake or South Lake; the intire common fen called the Middle, containing seven hundred thirty-four acres, abutting westward upon the several grounds of Eldernel, and upon Lord's Dike, southward upon South Lake or Sterne Ea, eastward upon the dike extending from Morton's Leam, near Mid-fen Tree, unto South Lake or Sterne Ea aforesaid, and northward upon Morton's Leam aforesaid; out of the common fen grounds lying near unto Eastrea, called Eastrea Fen, or the Wipe, nine hundred thirty and two acres, abutting westward upon Begger's Dike, southward upon the new drain called Bevel's Leam, eastward upon the new dike extending from West Fen Close unto South Lake or Sterne Ea, and northward upon South Lake, or Sterne Ea aforesaid; and out of the common fen ground called the Moor, six hundred forty-six acres at the north-west part thereof, abutting westward upon Sted's Dike, and northward upon the said new drain called Bevel's Leam - 5527 0 0

Out of the several fen ground of or be

Whitlesey  
severals.



longing to Witlesey aforesaid, called Prior's Fens, one hundred eighty-nine acres, as the same is already divided and inclosed from the residue of the said fens; (that is to say) out of the ground of Richard Auldfeld, fifty acres at the south-east part thereof; out of the ground of Widow Pennie, two acres one rood and twenty-eight perches at the south part thereof; out of the grounds of Henry Prat, Gent. adjoining to the grounds of Richard Auldfeld aforesaid, called Ashe Fen, forty-seven acres three roods and twenty perches at the south-west end thereof, abutting upon North Fen; out of the grounds of John Elkin, Gent. forty-four acres three roods and two perches at the south-east part of the same grounds; out of the ground of ——— Danson, Gent. three acres one rood and fifteen perches at the west end thereof; out of the ground of ——— Summer, Gent., three acres one rood and fifteen perches at the east end thereof; out of the ground of ——— Arme-  
sted, Gent. eleven acres three roods and thirty perches at the west end thereof; out of one other ground of the said Henry Pratt, called Cawcroft, nineteen acres three roods and thirty-five perches at the south-west corner thereof; and out of the ground of ——— Rose, Gent. five acres one rood and fifteen perches at the south-east corner thereof

189 0 0

Stanground.

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Stanground in the county of Huntingdon, called Flegge Fen and White Fen Close, lying in the said Isle of Ely and

county of Cambridge, one hundred twenty seven acres, abutting northward upon Morton's Leam, and eastward and southward upon the several grounds of Witlesey 127 0 0

Out of the mowing fen ground belonging to Stanground aforesaid, called Northea, lying in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, sixty-four acres, as the same is already divided and inclosed at the south-east part of the same ground 64 0 0

Out of the demean fen grounds of or belonging to the lordship of Thorney, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, four thousand acres, abutting eastward upon the common fen of Wisbich called High Fen, and the common fen grounds of Sutton in Holland, southward upon the fen grounds of Witlesey, called Bassen Hall Moor, and northward upon the South Ea Bank 4000 0 0 Thorney.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Sutton in Holland, in the county of Lincoln, lying in the said Isle of Ely in the county of Cambridge, four hundred and forty acres, abutting eastward upon the common fen of Wisbich, southward upon the lake called the Wride, and westward upon the fen ground of Thorney, called Knare Fen 440 0 0 Sutton in Holland.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Wisbich, in the said Isle of Ely in the county of Cambridge, two thousand six hundred forty-eight acres; (that is to say) one intire fen ground, lying near Guy Hurne, between Morton's Leam, the new drain called Bevel's Leam, Sterne Ea or South Lake, and the common fens in Witle- Wisbich.



sea called the Middle, containing four hundred ninety-one acres and two roods; one other intire fen ground, lying between Morton's Leam aforesaid, the fen ground of Witlesea called Bassen Hall Moor, and the drain called the Five-and-twenty-foot Drain, containing four hundred twenty-four acres and two roods; and one other intire fen ground, containing one thousand seven hundred thirty-two acres, lying between the said Five-and-twenty-foot Drain, Knarre Lake, and the drain or way leading from Pekirke Meadow unto Guy Hurne - 2648 0

Out of the several fen ground belonging to Wisbich aforesaid, called Throcken Holt, fourscore acres at the west end of the same ground, abutting northward upon South Ea Bank - 80 0

Elme.

Out of the common fen ground of or belonging to Elme, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, lying between Coldham Bank and Elme Leam, fifty acres at the south-west part thereof, abutting upon Elme Leam and a several fen ground of Robert Peyton, Esq. called Great Sedge Fen - 50 0

Out of the several fen ground in Elme aforesaid, belonging unto the Bishop of Ely, lying between Elme Leam and the Old Ea, thirty acres, abutting upon the south-east end of the common fen ground of Elme aforesaid, and the said several ground of Robert Peyton aforesaid - 30 0

Out of the several fen ground of Robert Peyton aforesaid, called Great Sedge Fen, adjoining unto Elme Common aforesaid, one

hundred and seventy acres, abutting upon Coldham Bank, the said ground of Lord Bishop of Ely, and the said common fen of Elme - - - - - 170 0 0

Out of the common fen ground called Ladus Fen, and Lake Fen, lying within the hundred of Wisbich, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, six hundred and fourscore acres at the south-west end thereof, abutting upon part of the common fen of Dodington and March, called Creek Fen, lying between Elme Leam and the River Neane - - - - - 680 0 0

Ladus Fen.

Out of the common fen ground called Eausy Moor, lying within the said hundred of Wisbich, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, bounded with the river Neane, Wellney River, Darcie Lode, and the Lake called the Old Chair, one thousand nine hundred sixty-four acres at the north-west part thereof, abutting upon the said lake called the Old Chair, the river Neane, and the Dike called the New Dike 1964 0 0

Eausy Moor.

Out of the common fen ground called Tuck's Moor Hurne, or Well Pingle, lying within the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, between the said lake called the Old Chair and Read's Fen in March, thirty-six acres, abutting upon the Old Chair aforesaid and upon the river Neane - - - - - 36 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Upwell, Outwell, and Wellney, in the county of Norfolk, and in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, or some or one of them, one thousand five hundred and forty acres; (that is to say) out of

Upwell, Outwell, and Wellney.



the common fen ground called Neat Moor, and the Lots, seven hundred and fifty acres at the east end of the same ground next unto Well Creek, abutting southward upon the fens called Londoners Fens, northward upon London Lode, the fen ground in the occupation of Tristram Diamond, Gent. and the common fen called Outwell Pingle; out of the common fen grounds called Shevens, two hundred acres at the east side thereof, abutting upon Causey Dike and Hacket Wey; out of the common fen grounds called Common Piece and Hale Fen, five hundred and ninety acres; (viz.) the said intire fen called the Common Piece; and the residue, being four hundred fifty-six acres, out of the said common fen called Hale Fen, at the north-east part thereof, abutting upon Bedford River and the several ground belonging unto Welney Chapel, called Sedge Fen

Out of the several fen grounds called Londoners Fens, being late parcel of the common fens of Upwell and Wellney aforesaid, eight hundred acres, as the same is already set out, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from the residue of the said fens, in manner and form following; (that is to say) one intire fen ground belonging to Sir Robert Bell, Knight, called Lilly-pools, containing five acres; one other intire fen ground belonging to the said Sir Robert Bell, lying between Lilly-pools aforesaid, the fen ground called Cade's Fen, the several fen grounds belonging to Wellney Chapel called Knob-



bals, and the several fen ground of Thomas  
 Fincham, Gent. containing eighty-eight  
 acres and three roods; out of one other  
 ground of him the said Sir Robert Bell, lying  
 between Cady's Fen and London Lode  
 aforesaid, forty-two acres and three roods  
 at the west end thereof; out of the several  
 fen ground now or late of Sir Lewis Tres-  
 ham, Knight, lying between Cady's Fen,  
 and Wick Fen, ninety-three acres and one  
 rood at the south end thereof, abutting upon  
 the several fen ground late of — Fincham,  
 Gent. in the occupation of him the said Sir  
 Lewis Tresham; out of the several fen  
 ground late in the tenure or occupation of  
 Sir William Cockayne, Knight, adjoining  
 unto Cady's Fen aforesaid, and the several  
 grounds now or late of Sir John Wats,  
 Knight, one hundred seventy-one acres at  
 the south part thereof, abutting upon the  
 ground of Thomas Parlet; out of the several  
 grounds now or late of Sir John Wats,  
 Knight, three hundred fifty-two acres and  
 one rood, abutting upon Maid Lode, the  
 forementioned ground late of Sir William  
 Cockayne, and the Droveway leading through  
 the middle of the said grounds of him the  
 said Sir John Wats; out of the several fen  
 ground of Thomas Fincham, Gent. lying  
 between Cady's Fen, and Wick Fen, eleven  
 acres and three roods, abutting on both sides  
 of Bedford River; out of the several fen  
 ground late of — Fincham, Gent. now in  
 the occupation of the said Sir Lewis  
 Tresham, thirteen acres and one rood at the  
 west side thereof, abutting upon Cady's Fen;

out of the several fen ground now or late of Haman le Strange, Esq. abutting upon Cady's Fen and Maid Lode, twelve acres at the east side thereof next Bedford River; and out of the several fen ground called Hen Middle, abutting upon Maid Lode, on the north side of Bedford River, ten acres, adjoining to the fen grounds now or late of Sir John Wats aforesaid, and upon the several grounds of Thomas Parlet, Yeoman 800 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds belonging to the Chapel of Wellney, one hundred seventy-eight acres, as the same is already set out, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from the residue of the said fens, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the fen ground called Knobbals, twenty-eight acres; (*viz.*) one intire piece thereof, lying on the north side of Bedford River, containing nine acres; out of the ground late in the occupation of Edward Lechland, Esq. or his assigns, lying on the south side of Bedford River, ten acres, abutting upon the said river; and out of the residue of the said ground called Knobbals, nine acres, at the east end thereof, abutting upon Wick Fen and Read's Fen; out of the several fen grounds called Sedge Fen, one hundred and fifty acres; (*viz.*) one intire piece thereof lying on the north side of Bedford River, containing eleven acres; and out of the residue of the said fen one hundred thirty-nine acres at the south-west part thereof, abutting upon Hale Fen and Bedford River aforesaid - 178 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds belonging



to Outwell aforesaid, lying between Popham Eau and New Dike, sixty-five acres, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said three several fen grounds, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the several fen ground belonging to the dean and chapter of Norwich, thirty-five acres at the east end thereof, abutting upon Neat-Moore and Popham Eau aforesaid; out of the grounds of Tristram Diamond, Gent. twenty-five acres at the south-east part thereof, abutting upon Neat-Moore aforesaid; and out of the ground of Sinolphus Bell, Esq. five acres at the east end thereof, abutting upon the said grounds of the said Tristram Diamond, Gent. - - - - - 65 0 0

Out of three several fen grounds lying in Ladus Fen, fifty-two acres and two roods, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said three fen grounds, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the ground called Langbeech, on the south-west side of Bishop's Dike, seven acres and two roods at the east end thereof; out of the ground called Marmond, twenty-seven acres and one rood at the south part thereof; and out of the ground now or late of Sir William Reade, Knight, lying near Newe's Cote, seventeen acres and three roods at the north end thereof - - - - - 52 2 0

Out of the several fen ground called Farmer's Fen, forty-eight acres at the east side

thereof, abutting upon the common fen called Eausie Moor - - - 48 0 0

Out of the several fen ground called Loveokes, twenty-one acres at the north end thereof, abutting upon the fen called the Common Piece - - - 21 0 0

Out of nineteen several fen grounds, belonging to Upwell, and Wellney aforesaid, or to one of them, lying on the west side of Wellney River, between Popham's Eau and Darcie Lode, two hundred fifty-two acres and thirteen perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by lock-spits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said nineteen several fen grounds, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the imbanked several fen ground of John Moyse, Gent. one hundred and five acres and thirty-six perches at the south-west part thereof, abutting upon Eausie Moor; out of the imbanked ground now or late of ——— Taylor, Gent. forty-six acres, two roods and twenty perches at the south part thereof; out of the ground now or late of William Bellamy, two acres and two roods at the south part thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of John Bellamy, two acres one rood and twenty perches at the west part thereof; out of the ground now or late of ——— Fiske, Gent, called Rollingham, fifteen acres two roods and twenty-two perches at the west part thereof; out of the ground now or late of ——— Calverley, Doctor of Divinity, eight acres three roods and ten perches at the south corner thereof; out of



the ground called Town Land, abutting upon the several ground of William Drue, one acre and thirty-four perches at the north end thereof; out of the said ground of William Drue, two acres and two roods at the north end thereof; one intire fen ground of John Dixon, Gent. abutting upon Magg's Lake, containing six acres two roods and thirty-six perches; out of the ground now or late of Edmund Man, abutting upon Magg's Lake aforesaid, one acre and twenty perches at the north-west corner thereof; one intire ground now or late of Thomas Blithe, adjoining to the said ground of Edmund Man, containing five acres three roods and thirty-six perches; one other intire fen ground now or late of John Bellamy and Mathew Bellamy, abutting upon Friday Lake, containing four acres and two roods; one other intire fen ground now or late of William Reade aforesaid, abutting also upon Friday Lake, containing seven acres and ten perches; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of Haman le Strange, Esq. nine acres one rood and twenty-two perches at the east part thereof; one intire fen ground now or late of Thomas Fincham, adjoining to the last mentioned ground of Haman le Strange aforesaid, containing thirteen acres and two roods; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of Roger Prat, Esq. seven acres and two roods at the south part thereof; out of the ground now or late of John Gray, one acre, two roods and twenty-five perches at the north part thereof; out of the ground



now or late of ——— Reve, Clerk, three roods and twelve perches at the south-west part thereof; and out of the ground of Thomas Crosse, abutting upon the north side of Darcie Lode, eight acres three roods and thirty perches at the west end thereof - - - - - 252 0 13

Out of fifteen other several fen grounds of or belonging to Upwell and Wellney, lying also on the west side of Wellney River aforesaid, between Darcie Lode aforesaid, and the several grounds of Little-port, lying upon the same river, seventy-three acres one rood and twenty perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said fifteen several fen grounds, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the ground of Thomas Crosse abutting upon the south side of Darcie Lode, eleven acres three roods and ten perches at the west end thereof; out of the next adjoining ground of Robert Webster, two acres one rood and twenty-eight perches at the south corner thereof; out of the several fen ground called Lewis Meadow, seven acres and twelve perches at the south-west end thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of Simon Hudson, eight acres three roods and thirty-eight perches at the south part thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of John Stanbridge, five acres one rood and thirty perches at the east side thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of Robert Goulden, three acres

one rood and eighteen perches at the east corner thereof; out of the ground of Everard Buckworth, Esq.; eight acres at the west part thereof; out of the next adjoining ground late of William Bond, one acre three roods and ten perches at the south corner thereof; out of the next adjoining ground, now or late of Thomas Birt, four acres two roods and six perches at the west corner thereof; out of the ground now or late of Edward Bond, one acre two roods and ten perches at the south-west end thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of Francis Waters, Gent. five acres one rood and eighteen perches at the south-west part thereof; out of the ground now or late of Richard James, lying near Wellney, two acres three roods and thirty-two perches at the north-west corner thereof; out of the ground now or late of William Gabie and John Gabie, lying on the south side of Bedford river, one acre and two roods at the west end thereof; out of the ground belonging to the Deanery of Peterborough, abutting upon Marmond Meadow, the acres two roods and eight perches at the west part thereof; and out of the said ground called Marmond Meadow, five acres at the north-west part thereof - - - - -

73 1 20

Out of twenty-three several fen grounds belonging to Upwell and Wellney aforesaid, to the one of them, lying on the east side of Wellney river, between Popham's Eau and the several fen grounds belonging to Little-port, one hundred and fifty acres and

seven perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by lockspits or small trenches severed and divided from every of the said twenty-three several fen grounds, in manner and form following; (that is to say) out of the ground now or late of Sir John Wats, Knight, lying near Popham Eau aforesaid, ten acres one rood and twenty-six perches at the east part thereof; out of the ground of Henry Goldwell, adjoining unto the common fen called Sheuens, extending unto the said river of Wellney, one acre and twelve perches at the east corner thereof; out of the ground now or late of Sir Robert Bell, Knight, abutting upon Wellney river and the ground belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, eight acres and one rood and thirty perches at the north-east part thereof; out of the ground now or late of William Drue, abutting also upon the said ground of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, fourteen acres one rood and twenty perches at the east end thereof; out of the ground of Haman le Strange, Esq.; called Great Greenes, twenty-six acres three roods and ten perches at the south part thereof; out of the next adjoining ground now or late of John Bellamy and Matthew Bellamy, four acres three roods and thirty-eight perches at the east end thereof; out of the next adjoining ground of John Goddard, one acre and two roods at the north side thereof; out of the ground now or late of William Gabie, three acres three roods and ten perches at the north-east part thereof; out

of the next adjoining ground, now or late of Tristram Diamond, Gent. three acres one rood and thirty perches at the east corner thereof; out of the ground now or late of Edmund Man, adjoining unto the ground now or late of John Dixon, two acres two roods and twenty-eight perches at the south-east corner thereof; one intire ground now or late of John Dixon afore-said, bounded with the common fen called Heuens and the river of Wellney, containing seven acres and two roods; out of one other ground now or late of him the said John Dixon, abutting upon the aforesaid ground of Edmund Man, eight acres and two roods at the north side thereof; out of the ground now or late of William Parlet, Gent. abutting upon the ground of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, lying near Darcie Lode, four acres two roods and ten perches at the south side thereof; one intire several fen ground belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, lying near Darcie Lode afore-said, containing thirteen acres and thirty perches; out of the ground now or late of John Bloome, abutting upon the ground of John Marshall, Gent. two acres three roods and thirty-three perches at the south-east side thereof; out of the said ground now or late of John Marshall afore-said, ten acres three roods and ten perches at the north end thereof; out of the ground now or late of Thomas Crosse, abutting upon Causey Dike, four acres two roods and ten perches at the west end thereof; out of the ground now or late of Sir Wil-



liam Reade aforesaid, abutting upon Causey Dike, near Wellney, three roods and ten perches at the north end thereof; out of the ground now or late of Sir John Wats, Knight, abutting upon Maid Lode, three acres at the east part thereof; out of the ground now or late of John Stanbridge, lying near Wellney, one acre at the east part thereof; out of the ground now or late of James Ravens, one acre at the north-east part thereof, abutting upon Bedford river; out of the ground now or late of Francis Waters, lying on the south side of Bedford River, abutting upon Hale Fen and Wellney River, eleven acres and two roods at the south-east end thereof; and out of the ground now or late of Richard Ward, lying near Pralls, were three acres and twenty perches at the north side thereof - 150 0

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#### COM. HUNTINGDON.

Somersham.

OUT of the common fen grounds of or belonging to the Soake of Somersham, in the said county of Huntingdon, one thousand six hundred and five acres; (*viz.*) out of the common fen called Erith Fen, two acres adjoining to Bedford river, on the south side of the same river near to Erith sluice; out of the mow fen called Croll Lode, seventy acres at the west part thereof, abutting upon High Fen; and out of the said com-



on fens called High Fen and North Fen,  
 re thousand five hundred thirty-three  
 res, abutting upon the said fen called  
 roll Lode, and adjoining southward upon  
 e low fen of Somersham and the hard  
 nds, and northward upon the common  
 ns of Warbois and Fenton Lode - 1605 0 0

Out of a several fen ground in Somers-  
 am, called Rowey, eleven acres at the  
 orth part thereof - 11 0 0

Warbois.

Out of the common fen grounds of War-  
 ois or Ramsey, in the county of Hunting-  
 on, lying between the West Water from  
 . Bennet's Cross unto Fenton Lode, and  
 ong the said Lode unto the hard lands of  
 'arbois, and by a straight line extended  
 om Wistowe Stone in the fen unto St.  
 ennet's Cross aforesaid, one thousand  
 ght hundred sixty-eight acres at the  
 orth-west part of the same ground, on  
 th sides of the new drain, extending  
 om the hard lands of Warbois unto the  
 'est Water, abutting upon the said West  
 ater, the commons of Ramsey called  
 ast-moor, and the common fen called  
 Vistowe fen - 1868 0 0

Wistowe.

Out of the common fen grounds called  
 Vistowe Fen, in the said county of Hun-  
 ngdon, belonging to Ramsey, Wistowe,  
 nd Berry, or to some or one of them, and  
 ounded with the said common fens of War-  
 ois or Ramsey, the hard lands of Wistowe  
 nd Berry, the mow fen of Berry, and the  
 ke called Sallaries Raft, three hundred  
 ghty-six acres at the north-east part of  
 e said fen, abutting upon the said com-

mon fen of Warbois or Ramsey, and the  
said lake called Sallaries Raft - - - 386 0 0

Berry. Out of the common fen ground belonging  
to Berry in the said county of Huntingdon,  
called Berry Mow Fen, forty-five acres at  
the south part of the said fen - - - 45 0 0

Ramsey. Out of the common fen grounds of or be-  
longing to Warbois or Ramsey, in the said  
county of Huntingdon, or to one of them,  
called East-moor, bounded with the said  
lake called Sallaries Raft, the foremen-  
tioned line extended from Wistowe Stone  
in the fen unto St. Bennet's Cross, the com-  
mon fens of Dodington and Benwick, called  
Pulver Fen and Turfe Fen, Ramsey Meer,  
and the inclosed grounds of Sir Oliver Crom-  
well, Knight of the honourable Order of  
the Bath, one thousand four hundred ninety  
and six acres; out of the south-east part of  
the said fen, on both sides of the said new  
drain, extending from the hard lands of  
Warbois unto the West Water, and adjoining  
upon Pulver Fen and Sallaries Raft afore-  
said - - - 1496 0 0

Out of one other common fen ground of  
Ramsey aforesaid, called Middle Moor, one  
thousand eight hundred seventy and five  
acres, abutting westward upon the new  
drain or way leading from the hard lands of  
Upwood unto Witlesey, southward upon  
the River Neane, and north-eastward upon  
Delfe Dike and the several grounds called  
the Steds - - - 1875 0 0

Out of one other fen ground of or belong-  
ing to Ramsey, Upwood, and Raveley, or  
to some or one of them, lying near unto

Raveley, in the said county of Huntingdon, two hundred twenty-nine acres, abutting upon the hard lands of Raveley, near unto a place called Raveley's Nook, and upon the fen grounds claimed as parcel of the manor of Woodwalton. - 229 0 0

Out of one other common fen ground of or belonging unto Ramsey or Upwood, in the said county of Huntingdon, or to one of them, lying between the hard lands of Upwood and the River Neane, eight hundred fifty-six acres, abutting westward upon the drain or way leading from the hard lands of Upwood unto Witlesey aforesaid, northward upon the River Neane, and eastward and southward upon Bill Lode and the hard lands of Upwood aforesaid - 856 0 0

Out of one other common fen ground of or belonging to Ramsey aforesaid, lying between Ramsey Meer and Delfe Dike, one hundred and eight acres, abutting upon Delfe Dike and the River Neane. - 108 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Sir Oliver Cromwel, Knight of the honourable Order of the Bath, lying and situate in Ramsey aforesaid, called Abbots Pingle, Wigin Moor, Ramsey Park, and Asbech, one hundred seventy-seven acres; (*viz.*) the said intire fen ground called Abbots Pingle, containing four-score acres; the said intire fen ground called Asbech, containing seventy-six acres; and the residue, being twenty-one acres, out of the said fen ground called Wigin Moor, at the south-east part thereof abutting upon Abbots Pingle aforesaid - 177 0 0

Severals of  
Ramsey.

Out of the other several fen grounds of or belonging to Ramsey aforesaid, in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred fifty-five acres; (that is to say) out of the fen ground called Upper Steds, five acres two roods and twenty perches at the north-east end thereof; out of the several fen grounds called Nether Steds, eighteen acres and one rood at the north-west end thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of ——— Beale, Gent. lying near Witlesey Meer, three acres one rood and ten perches at the north-east part of the same ground; out of the several fen grounds of Thomas Cromwel, Gent. called Dentree and Bagdole, thirty-three acres one rood and ten perches at the north-east end of the said ground called Bagdole; out of the several fen ground of ——— Houson, called also Bagdole, twelve acres and two roods at the south-west part thereof, abutting upon Witlesey Meer; out of a several fen ground belonging to Sir Oliver Cromwel aforesaid, lying on the south side of Ugg Meer, six acres at the south-west part of the same ground; out of the several fen grounds called Beaupre Closes, eight acres and one rood, abutting upon Delfe Dike and the river Neane; out of the several fen grounds called Great Hilkes, twenty-eight acres and one rood at the east part thereof, abutting upon Ramsey Meer and the river Neane; out of the several fen grounds called Little Hilkes, two acres and two roods at the part thereof next unto the mouth of Ramsey Meer; out of the several fen ground called



Pollins, two acres and two roods at the east part thereof; out of the greater close called Bear's Arse, lying near Hilkes, on the north side of the river Neane, two acres three roods and ten perches at the north-east end of the said ground; out of the lesser ground called also Bear's Arse, one acre and twenty perches at the south-west side thereof; out of the several fen grounds adjoining upon the hard lands of Wistowe or Warbois, called Vicars Closes, six acres and ten perches at the west part of the said closes; out of the several fen ground now or late of Anne Netleton, lying near Ramsey town, one acre at the south part thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of Thomas Cock, one acre and three roods at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground of ——— Crockston, one acre and one rood at the north end thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of John Bateman, two acres and twenty-eight perches at the north end of the same ground; out of the several fen ground now or late of John Lavender, one acre one rood and four perches at the north part thereof; out of the several fen ground now or late of John Leeders, one acre two roods and four perches at the north part thereof; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Williamson, two acres two roods and twenty-eight perches at the north end thereof; out of the several fen grounds of Widow Holmes, two acres two roods and sixteen perches at the south end of the greater ground belonging unto her, abut-



ting upon the Lode ; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Barnes, two acres and ten perches at the east part thereof ; out of the several fen ground of John Knight, three acres three roods and thirty perches at the west part thereof, abutting upon the ground of William Cakebread ; out of the several fen ground of Richard Allen, lying near High Northey, two roods at the north side thereof ; out of the several fen ground of Robert Booth, two roods at the south side thereof ; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Howson, one acre at the north end thereof ; out of the several fen ground of — Farmer, Gent. three roods at the east side thereof ; and out of the several fen ground lying on the east part of Stoking Fen, in the occupation of Ralph Allen, one acre and two roods on the north side of the same ground - - - 155 0

Wood-walton.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Wood-walton in the said county of Huntingdon, nine hundred thirty-seven acres ; (that is to say) three hundred ninety-three acres out of the north end of the same ground, abutting upon the several fen grounds of Hignie Farm and Brick Meer, claimed by John Marshall, Gent. and the residue, being five hundred forty and four acres, out of the north part of the said fen, abutting upon Ugg Meer and the common fen grounds of Ramsey and Upwood, late in the possession of and claimed by — Laurence, Gent. - - - 937 0 0

Out of the two several fen grounds of the said John Marshall, lying in Wood-walton

aforesaid, next unto the fen and hard lands of Sautrey, thirty-six acres at the north end of the said grounds, abutting upon Sautrey Fen and the hard lands of Hignie Farm - 36 0 0

Out of the one other fen ground in Wood-walton aforesaid, lying between the hard lands of Wood-walton and Hignie Fen, and the said fen of Wood-walton, claimed as several by the said John Marshall, fifteen acres, abutting upon the hard lands of Wood-walton, at the south-east part of the said ground - 15 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Hignie Farm in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred acres at the north end of the said grounds, abutting upon the several fen grounds of Conington, and upon the common fen grounds of Holme and Wood-walton aforesaid - 100 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Sautrey, in the said county of Huntingdon, two hundred and six acres at the south-east part of the same fen, abutting upon the several fen grounds of Sautrey and Wood-walton aforesaid, and upon the hard lands of Sautrey - 206 0 0

Out of two several fen grounds in Sautrey aforesaid, lying near unto Wood-walton aforesaid, nineteen acres at the north-east part of the greater of the said several fen grounds, abutting eastward upon the several fen grounds of John Marshall aforesaid - 19 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Conington in the said county of Huntingdon, two hundred eighty and one acres, abutting southward upon the common fen grounds

Hignie.

Sautrey.

Conington.



	of Sautrey aforesaid, eastward upon the fen grounds of Higney Farm, and northward upon the common fen called Holme Fen	- 281 0 0
Holme and Glatton.	Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Holme and Glatton, in the said county of Huntingdon, one thousand and twelve acres, abutting eastward upon the river Neane and Ugg Meer, southward upon Brick Meer, and the said several fen grounds of Hignie Farm and Conington, and westward upon the hard lands	- 1012 0 0
Denton.	Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Denton in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred fifty-six acres at the south-east part of the said fen, abutting upon Holme Lode and the hard lands of Holme	- 156 0 0
Caldecott.	Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to Caldecott, in the said county of Huntingdon, fifty-six acres; (that is to say) out of the Mosse Fen, belonging to the Right Honourable Edward Lord Montacute, eighteen acres at the south west part of the same ground, abutting upon the ground called the Turfe Lots; out of the said ground called the Turfe Lots, four acres three roods and twenty perches at the north end of the same ground abutting upon Caldecott Dike; out of the ground called the Mowing Lots, eight acres and three roods at the west end of the same ground; out of one other several fen ground of the said Lord Montacute, fourteen acres one rood and three perches, abutting upon part of the aforesaid Mowing Lots and upon Denton Fen; out of three several fen	

grounds now or late in the occupation of Thomas Hall, three acres, three roods and twenty-five perches at the north part of the same grounds; out of five several fen grounds, in the tenure or occupation of Sir Thomas Cotton, Baronet, ——— Williamson, Gent. ——— Fuller, Gent. Thomas Hall aforesaid, and William Ashton, lying between the aforesaid fen ground of the said Lord Montacute, Denton Fen, and the drove-way leading to the same grounds, four acres at the west ends of the said five several grounds; out of five other several fen grounds of or belonging unto the said Sir Thomas Cotton, the said ——— Williamson, Gent. the said ——— Fuller, Gent. the said Thomas Hall and William Ashton, lying between the aforementioned drove-way and the hard lands, two acres and two perches at the east part of the same ground - - - 56 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Stilton, in the said county of Huntingdon, one hundred and sixty acres, abutting upon Caldecott Dike, the Turfe Fen of Stilton, and the common and several fens of Yaxley - - - 160 0 0

Stilton.

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Yaxley, in the said county of Huntingdon, six hundred thirty and two acres at the north-east part of the same fens, abutting upon Pigge-water, Witlesey Meer and Trundle Meer - - - 632 0 0

Yaxley.

Out of the several fen grounds of Yaxley aforesaid, twenty-nine acres; (that is to say) out of the mow fen, called Western



Meadow, eight acres and two roods at the north-east side of the same ground, abutting upon the river Néane; out of a holt belonging to Thomas Gentill, lying near the town of Yaxley, three roods and five perches at the south end of the said holt; out of a holt belonging to John Isopp, one rood and five perches at the south end of the same holt; out of the holt belonging to Widow Pierson, one rood at the south end of the said holt; out of the holt belonging to Pinchbeck Pierson, one rood and twenty perches at the south end of the same holt; out of the several fen ground of Bartholomew Brown, abutting upon Witlesey Meer, one acre and one rood, at the part of the said ground next Trundle Meer; out of the several fen ground of Thomas Wats, lying near Yaxley Town, five perches at the south west part of the same ground; out of the several fen ground of Emmanuel Probie, Gent. lying near Yaxley Town, one rood and thirty perches at the south west part of the said ground; out of two several fen grounds belonging to the said Pinchbeck Pierson, lying near Yaxley Town, two acres and twenty-five perches at the south-east end thereof; out of the several fen ground of George Hopkins, two roods and twenty perches at the south-west part of the same ground; out of the several fen ground belonging to the said Emmanuel Probie, abutting upon Stilton Fen, eight acres and two roods at the north-east end of the same ground; out of a several fen ground lying between Witlesey Meer and Trundle Meer,



three acres and three roods at the east part thereof; out of another fen ground, lying also between Witlesey Meer and Trundle Meer, one acre and one rood at the east part thereof; and out of the several fen ground lying at the end of Conquest Lode, by Witlesey Meer, three roods, abutting upon Witlesey Meer aforesaid - 29 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Fasset, in the said county of Huntingdon, nine hundred and forty acres, abutting eastward upon the fen called Middle-moore in Ramsey, and southward upon Witlesey Meer, and upon two several fen grounds belonging to Fasset aforesaid, adjoining to the said Meer - 940 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of Fasset aforesaid, one hundred sixty and two acres, being two intire fen grounds, abutting upon the aforesaid common fen grounds of Fasset aforesaid, and upon Witlesey Meer - 162 0 0

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#### COM. NORTHAMPTON.

Out of the common fen ground of or belonging to the Soake of Peterborough, in the said county of Northampton, called Burrough Great Fen, two thousand six hundred twenty and two acres, abutting eastward upon part of the said common fen lying near Finshed Cross and the grounds of Single-sole Farm, southward upon the drain or way leading from Peakirk Meadow to Guy Hurne, northward on the new bank

of the river Welland, and upon the common fen ground called the four hundred acres - 2622 0 0

Out of the common fen grounds of or belonging to Peterborough or Crowland, or to the one of them, called the Four Hundred Acres or Alder Holt, lying in the county of Lincoln, two hundred and ninety acres at the west end thereof, abutting upon the said fen called Burrough Great Fen, and the common fens of Crowland - 290 0 0

Out of one other common fen ground of or belonging to Peterborough aforesaid, in the said county of Northampton, called Burrough Little Fen, eighty-eight acres at the east part thereof, abutting upon Muscot Water and Oxney Lode - 88 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging unto Single-sole Farm, in the said county of Northampton, forty-five acres, abutting eastward upon Catwater, southward upon the several fen grounds of Northam Farm, and westward upon Peterborough Great Fen - 45 0 0

Out of the several fen grounds of or belonging to the said Northam Farm, in the said county of Northampton, eighty acres; (that is to say) forty acres in one parcel adjoining eastward upon Catwater, northward upon the said several fen grounds of Single-sole Farm aforesaid; and the residue, being forty acres, out of the several fen called Cranmore, out of the south-east part thereof, abutting upon the fen called the Harpe, and upon the hard lands of Eye - 80 0 0

Eye.

Out of the fen called the Mowing Fen Grounds, of or belonging to Eye, in the

In county of Northampton, fifteen acres  
 and three roods and thirty perches, out of the  
 1 Mow Fen called Small-acre Furlong,  
 1 Chillam-tree Furlong; (that is to say)  
 of the ground called Small-acre Fur-  
 g, twelve acres one rood and thirty  
 ches at the east side of the same ground,  
 sitting upon Catwater; and the residue,  
 being three acres and two roods, out of the  
 1 ground called Chillam-tree Furlong, at  
 north side thereof, abutting upon the  
 several ground of Northam Farm called the  
 aches - - - 15 3 30  
 Out of the several fen grounds of Richard  
 rbie, lying between the said grounds  
 called Chillam-tree Furlong and Small-acre  
 long, one acre and ten perches, abut-  
 ting upon Catwater - - - 1 0 10  
 Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
 longing to Tanholt Farm, in the said county  
 Northampton, thirty acres and three  
 roods, being one intire fen, called Newthred,  
 sitting upon Catwater - - - 30 3 0  
 Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
 longing to Oxney Farm, in the said county  
 Northampton, twenty-six acres, abutting  
 thward upon the old engine and the hard  
 ds of Eyberry, and the fen grounds of  
 sholt Farm aforesaid, and south-eastward  
 on Catwater, the bank near Burrough  
 the Fen, and the other grounds of the  
 the farm - - - 26 0 0  
 Out of the several fen grounds of or be-  
 longing to the Right Honorable Francis Earl  
 Bedford, lying in Eyberry in the said  
 county of Northampton, eleven acres out of

the ground called Alder Fen, abutting upon  
high Edgerley Common - - - 11 0 0

Out of the lot fen ground belonging to  
Eye aforesaid, called the Harp, four acres  
and two roods at the east end of the same,  
abutting upon the hard lands of Eye afore-  
said - - - 4 2 0

Out of the several fen grounds of John  
Troughton, lying in Newark Edgerly, three  
roods at the east part of the same ground - 0 3 0

Out of the several fen ground of Widow  
Butcher, and the heirs of Giles Burrough,  
five acres, in two parcels lying together in  
the fens called the Holts, abutting upon  
Peterborough Great Fen - - - 5 0

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#### COM. LINCOLNE.

Crowland.

OUT of the common fen grounds of or  
belonging to Crowland in the said county  
of Lincoln, four hundred acres at the east  
part of the same fens, abutting eastward  
upon St. Guthlake's Cross and Catwater,  
southward upon the common fen called the  
Four Hundred Acres, or Alderholt, and  
northward upon the fen grounds of Crow-  
land aforesaid, called Porsand Fen - 400 0

ROWLAND ST. JOHN,	BEAUCHAMPE ST. JOHN,
ROBERT BELL,	MILES SANDYS,
THOMAS DEEREHAM,	GEORGE GLAPTHORNE,
EVERARD BUCKWORTH,	HUMBERSTON MARCH,
WILLIAM FISHER,	WILLIAM HAYWARD,

ALL which said laws, ordinances, and decrees of Sewers, together with the aforesaid Schedules annexed, we have caused by these presents to be exemplified, at the request of William Earl of Bedford, participants and adventurers for draining of the Great Level of the Fens.

In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

Witness ourself at Westminster, the eighteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight.

LENTHALL.

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## No. XVII.

### A DISCOURSE

*Touching the Draining of the Great Fennes lying within the severall Counties of Lincoln, Northampton, Huntingdon, Norfolke, Suffolke, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely, &c.*

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BY SIR CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN,

WRITTEN A. D. 1642.

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DIVERS persons of quality heretofore have been desirous to attempt the drayning of the great and vast Jewell called the Great Fennes, but they found not only



the work, but also the composing of an agreement very difficult, for they could not attain to so much as to make a contract for the general drayning thereof, untill of late years, King James, of blessed memory, did undertake (by a law of sewers) that great work, who, for the honour of this kingdom (as his Majesty told me at that time) would not suffer any longer the said land to bee abandoned to the will of the waters, nor to let it lye wast and unprofitable. But his Majesties great occasions and the time would not permit so great and good a resolution, but it was deferred so long, that at last the late Earl of Bedford (by the Law of Sewers made at Lynne) did undertake the drayning of the said great and vast level so farre as to make it summer ground.

Hereupon the said Earl made choise of divers persons of quality, who made a purse, and joyned in the performance of this great enterprise. And at the last (after the expence of above one hundred thousand pounds) the said Earl did proceed so far in this work, that it was adjudged to be made summer ground, and the recompence thereupon was set out.

But now notwithstanding all these great expences, they find by experience, that the lands can yield little or no profit, being subject to inundation still (though not so familiarly), whereby the adventurers not only became frustrate of their expectation, but also all the owners in general, who cannot make that use of their lands as they might doe, if they were made winter grounds and reduced to a certainty. His now Majesty taking consideration thereof, and foreseeing that these lands being a continent of about 400,000 acres, which being made winter ground, would be an unexpected benefit to the Commonwealth of six hundred thousand pounds *per annum* and upwards, and a great and certain revenue to all the parties interested. And likewise, because the owners (who are very many) could not agree to

do so great a work (the one being willing, the other not ; the one able to contribute, the other not) hath therefore bin pleased to undertake the making of those lands winter ground at his own charge, whereby the said four hundred thousand acres will be made profitable, firm, and good.

And for to execute the enterprize the better, his Majesty did command divers gentlemen expert in these works, to give their advice how these lands might be recovered in such manner as to make them winter grounds, to the end the work might be performed according to the contract. And amongst others, his Majesty was pleased to make one of that commission, and after a view thereof taken, every one of the said commissioners have returned their report and opinion (as usual in such case, and especially in a matter of such great weight) they differ much in their way, and so no resolution could be determined at that time, but did remain unresolved; yet all of them were of opinion that the work was very feazable. When K. James, of blessed memory, undertooke the drayning as aforesaid, at that time I was come over into England, invited to this work. I took several views thereof, went away, returned, and reviewed the same, took advice of the experienced men of the Low Countries, and from time to time did study how to contrive that work for the best advantage, being at that time in proposition to have undertaken the doing of that said work, together with my friends at our own charge, for a proportion of land. And my opinion therein I declared but lately to his Majesty; and his Highness being well pleased with that way, after debate had thereupon, was pleased to put the direction of that work upon me, and to perform it at his own charge, and for further information therein, hath commanded to have it set down in writing; which accordingly hereafter followeth.



*The Situation of the Great Fenns, and the State thereof.*

The level lyeth in six counties, (*viz.*) Cambridge and the Isle of Ely, Huntington, Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Suffolk. It is of a great and vast extent, that for its quantity it is of the latitude of a whole shire, and bounds on the north-west on the river of Glean; on the west and south-east upon the Upland Countries aforesaid, and on the north on Marsh-land and Holland, being likewise in the said level separated by banks.

There doe run through these fenns eight rivers, which do come out of divers vast and great countries which lye about it; the said rivers are called Glean, Welland, Neane, Ouse, Grant, Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoke.

These rivers lye common with the land, without separation by banks, save only Glean and Welland are sometimes imbanked, and some banks there are in some places on some of the other rivers, but not to that purpose as to save any part of the lands; and for this reason, and for want of a sufficient passage for the waters that come by the rivers, all the lands are overflown.

The said rivers have three several outfalls from the fenns into the sea, and by these out-falls the said rivers and lands unwater themselves in that manner as now they doe.

The level is broad, and of great extent, and flat, with little or no descent of its own, and grown full of hassacks, sedge, and reed, and the rivers full of weeds; and the waters go slowly away from the lands and out of the rivers, and they come swift into and upon it out of the Upland Counties, where the rivers have a great fall. The aforesaid three out-falls are of great length before they come to the sea, the lands of Holland and Marsh-land being great countries which lye between

them, and do hinder the speedy current of the waters towards the sea. There is much increase on the sea-side, and very large and vast sands, all dry at low water; and because of the Point of Norfolk, it makes it an imbay, whereby the sands of the sea are thrown there by the floods, and these three out-falls come through these sands, and the tydes every day bring into the mouth of the rivers a great quantity thereof, and there is but a few times sufficient land-water to set the sands out again to keep the out-fall open, insomuch that Welland and Wisbich out-falls are choaked every summer; but the outfall of Lynn hath sufficient water to keep open his channel, and although in the summer the sands in Lynn haven overcome the ebbs somewhat, yet they do not lye long, but the first land waters or next spring tydes carry them away again.

But it is not only to be feared, but apparent, that in process of time, the out-falls of Wisbich and Welland will utterly decay, by the said increase and sands of the sea, if they should remain as now they are, by reason of the daily increase of the marshes.

The soyl of this vast country is moorish, gathered and grown up higher by the weeds and oaze of the waters; many of them are rich grounds, and all would (if they were well drained) be very profitable and become good grounds, especially after they be burned, manured, and husbanded as such grounds should be.

There be many isles and rising grounds within this great level, and the rivers pass by towns low seated, lying here or next unto the Uplands, wherein the inhabitants of the fenns doe live in great abundance. The said countries of Marshland, Wisbich, and Holland, are fenced by banks from the waters of the fenns, and sometimes they have been overflown by the said waters, and have often been in great danger, and they are at a continual charge for the maintenance of the said banks.



The King's contract is to make these lands winter ground, that is, to free them from the overflowing of the rivers aforesaid, so farr as by art can be devised.

*Considerations to be taken in the ordinary way of  
Draining.*

There is in use a general rule of Drayning and gaining of drowned lands, which is by imbanking all the rivers on each side, and by leading away the downfall by draynes and sluices; and this is the ordinary way of draining, as is usual in all such cases.

But in this case of the Great Fenns, I cannot advise to go altogether in such a way to avoid inconveniences of great and vast expence, many difficulties of inundation and uncertainties, which otherwise would depend thereupon. For then a multitude of banks must be made, about 70,000 rods in length, on a level and moorish ground, and far distant from the falls: the yearly reparation whereof would be (besides the charge of making them) very great. The head draynes (which in this case are to be cut) for the leading away of the downfall, must be carried in all places through a higher ground than the lands drayned, which will be the greater charge, and those grounds wherein they are to be laid, must be dear bought.

The towns of Peterborough, Erith, and many others standing upon the upper ends of the rivers, and but low, would be thereby sometimes drowned, unless great forelands and receptacles be.

A great inconvenience would on the south side of Ouse, for by the imbanking of the rivers on that side,



there would be three or four levels, the one above the other, and all of them would want a fall all the winter time. And to lead away the downfall of them, it must be carried by tunnels underneath the three several rivers of Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoke, and that in sundry places, and the water must go about 28 miles before it cometh to the fall, and so the upper level must of necessity commit the water thereof into the next, and so into the lower again. And all this length of 28 miles goe in a slow pace. And how the downfall should be brought such a length without surcharging the draines either in the one or other level, I know not. And especially there being several brooks, the which in winter time will overtake the downfall, and being liberal with their waters (being more than the drains and tunnels can swallow) the level would become surrounded, and so without perfection from within.

And by the waters without the banks, will lye in continual danger of inundation for want of a good fall in the winter, and by a wind, catch, break, and undoe all again.

And although each mouth of the several rivers of Mildenhall and Brandon, be brought through new channels lower to the fall; yet it will not take away these inconveniences in this way. And if by another way the several rivers of Mildenhall and Brandon should be brought to Stoke all in one along the upper end of the level, and so by Stoke mouth into Ouse; yet that way the downfall will have no issue neither; for the waters of the several rivers being all brought into Ouse, neer together, and kept within channel, will so swell in the rivers, that the downfall thereof, which is to be kept under soil, will have no issue, and so the level be overflowed, and as it is now, and no better.

And the lands will be by this way much subjected to inundation and drowning, both by the rivers and down-

fall; and not be worth so much in purchase, or to be letten, as otherwise: and the charge of the works in this way (in works not accompted) will be much greater than the whole drayning will require the other way, which I direct hereafter following.

Therefore to avoid these and many more inconveni- ences, I find it best to lead most of the rivers about another way, whereby these four benefits will arise.

1. That the works may be made at a far less charge.
2. That they will stand with more safety and no hazard of inundation, and so may become habitable.
3. And not subject to half that reparation.
4. And the land of a far better value than the other way.

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*Divers Things to be observed.*

And to the end the works may be made to answer the difficulties the lands now lye in, in the contriving thereof, these following things are to be observed,

1. That the rivers come down swift out of the Upland Countries, and when they be in the fenns (they being level grounds) goe but slowly away.
2. That the level is of great extent, twenty miles at least from the upper end to the fall; and therefore before the water can come thither, within a convenient and answerable time, and in that proportion as it is still fed by the river water from above out of the Uplands, it must go swifter than the level water.
3. That the banks (so much as may be) be laid out from the moorish grounds.



4. That the rivers be carried on the highest grounds where possibly they may bee.

5. That the draines be laid in the lowest grounds.

6. That there be receptacles for the waters to bed on in all times of extremity, otherwise the work might bee put to an impossibility, and a continual hazard of inundation.

7. And that the towns lying on the upper part of the rivers may not be damnified, by putting the waters too high between the banks.

8. And although all this bee provided for, yet the banks to be made 10, 11, or 12 foot high, on a seat of 40, 45, 50, or 60 foot broad in general, according to the occasions more or less.

9. That the river water and the downfall bee kept asunder, and brought to the fall severally.

Now farther, observe how it stands with the River of Glean, (to give you an example) which river drowns Deeping Fenn, by the often breaking of the banks on that side, and by two slakers (which are inlets), whereby the waters of Glean, when the banks cannot contain them, are let into Deeping Fen by a certain measure (that when the water is above the bottom of the slakers, then it) runneth over into the land. And this is because the banks on either side of Glean are laid too near together, therefore if the waters should be kept within the banks as now they are, without slakers, they would run over and break them, and Deeping Fenn would thereby be drowned on every occasion by the breaches which the water would make. Those slakers then are made to keep the said banks from breaking, which is no otherwise than an issue in a corrupt body, where there is a neglect to take away the occasion by a known remedy. It cannot be deny'd but that the banks of Glean were laid too near; for had they been laid four times so far asunder as now they are, the river would be contained within

banks without slakers, for if the water be pent into a narrow room, then the water in that narrow room must be higher, and so rise over the banks. But if it shall lye on a wide bed, then it lyeth broader, and the cubes of two several bodies will much differ, for you shall find a greater proportion, and also gain a greater easement to the said banks than the other way, and room to lodge the water between them without any slakers or inlets, for they are remedies worse than the disease, and not to be suffered in any work whatsoever if you desire perfection. There should be great room left between bank and bank on each side of the rivers, yet the one river, according to the greatness thereof, will require more than the other. For the greater the confluence of waters, the more room is required to receive it. And the more distance from the fall, the more room likewise is to be left; because the waters being far distant from the fall, go not so speedy, nor have that current which they have at small or short distance.

And in case that all the rivers should be inn'd and fenced by banks to free the lands, and that great distances should be left between bank and bank; yet still it must be confess'd that a multitude of banks in this level must be made thro' moorish grounds, in length about 70,000 rod, which would be very chargeable and dangerous. And (if all be considered) impossible that way to be made a sure work, and in such a case, divers draynes for the downfall must bee made, and all thro' high and valuable lands, and more sluices (which are very chargeable, not only in their first making, but also in their future maintenance) as may be seen by the draines of Deeping Fenn and others which are but newly made, and already almost grown up with all kind of water weeds. You may observe this in all kind of draynes of this nature throughout the whole country. So that thereby the works become unfruitfull after a little



while, and in this way many thousands might be spent to small or no purpose. But to avoid the multiplicity of banks and the making of many drains, and to reduce the work to a possibility, it should be so contrived that there should be but few of either of them made. Therefore, it is best that rivers be brought as into one, to avoid here the moiety of the banks, which otherwise must be made. And for the receptacles, I resolve to imitate nature (as much as can be) in the Upland Countries, for between the hills there are meadows, and on each side pasture grounds or plough land. I shall endeavour to contrive the workes that way, that there be meadows between the upland and the winter ground of the fenns likewise.

Hereby first to avoid multiplicity of banks, which are very chargeable both in their making and maintaining.

Secondly, For that the meadows will be receptacles for the water in time of extremity to bed on upon all occasions of floods, and so to keep the waters at a lesser height by far against the banks, and no hurt, but a great deal of good will be thereby; for these meadows will lye very convenient for the Upland Country and for the winter grounds of the fenns. And of these meadows there will be no greater quantity than the imbanking of the rivers by the ordinary way of drayning will take up, for there must be room left between bank and bank.

And when all this is taken into consideration, with the scituation of the whole, I find it the fittest way to divide the whole level into three parts.

1. The one from Glean to Morton's Leame.
2. From Morton's Leame to Bedford River.
3. From Bedford River southwards, being the remainder of the level.

To drain the lands between Glean and Morton's Leame, all Stow-brook, and so much of the River of



Glean as the banks cannot contain, must be turned along Deeping into Welland, and all Welland into Morton's Leame, which lyeth convenient to receive Stow Brook, part of Glean, Welland, and Neane, to be carried to Guyhurne, and from thence by Wisbich to the sea, and so those rivers to make but one; whereby the work will be made at lesser charges by far, and also gain a more perfect outfall, because the rivers of Wisbich and Spalding are not sufficient for want of water to keep open their channels as they should be kept, but are interrupted and subject to grow up, by reason of the sand which the sea bringeth in, whereas they ought to be kept open and have their full depths and fall, for the ground to be drayned so far upwards as into or adjoyning to the drowned grounds, for the issuing of their downfall.

To make a sure work thereof, I advise to bring the aforesaid rivers into one, that they may (in time) gain themselves a natural channel, which will be far better than to leave them to sundry outfalls, which in future ages, (as is conceived) will reduce the work into an uncertainty again, by reason of the daily great increase of the salt marshes and the sands of the sea.

And by this means the old channell of Welland will become very usefull to the country, by the sasse or navigable sluice to be set at Waldron Hall for navigation to water the country in summer, and to scowre the outfall, and in winter the channel will serve to convey away the downfall of the adjacent lands, which otherwise must be done by draynes to be made at great charge, and there is no conveniency to have such draynes, and beside the charge, which is intollerable, the service thereof will be uncertain, because there is no place for them but through high grounds, in which draynes cannot be made so useful as they should, espe-

cially for Deeping Fenns, which are very low grounds, and hardly to be drained, except Welland be turned to Wisbich.

And hereby the said Deeping Fenns will be more certainly secured, and they and Elow, as I verily believe, will be more worth to be purchased by fifty or sixty thousand pounds, if drayned this way, then if they should be drayned the other way.

But why should the two rivers be brought to Wisbich, Object. and not through Welland, Welland lying in the middle of this part of the level?

I find many reasons which move to bring these waters Answer. to Wisbich, and they are these :

1. The outfall of Wisbich lyeth convenient for the drayning of South Holland (*alias*) Ellow, and the north side of Wisbich by the Sheire Drayne. And if Welland be not put that way, the outfall of Wisbich cannot so well be kept low enough to drayne them as they should be, they being very low grounds, and the low water of the sea lying now but little lower than they, and yet must be sufficiently drayned, and by the turning of Welland thither, the outfall of Wisbich will grind deeper and gain a greater fall to lay them dry, and high above water.

2. And consider that the lands of South Holland, by descending from Spalding to the Sheire Drayne above four foot, and therefore of necessity they must have their best issue into Wisbich outfall by the Sheire Drayne, and that part of Thorney Abbey grounds, Wisbich Common, and such lands as cannot run to Welland with their downfall, must have a drayne between Guyhurne and the Shire Drain, at a place called Murra Plash.

3. Wisbich Outfall and Morton's Leame lye in the middle of the level of fenns, and hereby will become navigable, to the great benefit and convenience of the



country, and the outfall will be thereby made safe for ever, and the fenns be kept absolutely drayned.

4. By the water of Glean and the downfall which goeth and is to go that way, the channel of Welland will be kept open and remain navigable for small boats, and serve for the downfall of the country on that side.

5. Welland is a lesser river than Neane, and runneth on a higher bottom, and it is more convenient to bring the higher and lesser, to the low and greater, then contrariwise.

6. It will be a less charge and more certainty. For the River of Welland is more narrow, and Wisbich River is more wide and easie to be opened, because of the works already made by the Earl of Bedford, and hath already three foot better fall than that of Spalding.

7. I find in the report of Sir Clement Edmonds, 20 September, 1618, by order of his late Majesties most honourable Privy Councell, upon occasion of the differences which arose amongst the Commissioners of Sewers for those countries. That upon examination it was found that anciently the waters of Welland and Neane went to the sea by Wisbich outfall. And by the said report, it was likewise found good to draw the waters to their ancient outfalls, which confirms me in my resolution. And observe, that Gleane is higher than Welland, and Welland than Neane; therefore of necessity, Welland must be brought to Neane, as anciently nature brought it, which is now hindered by a bank, and not Neane to Welland. And it is very true, that the water of Welland, for the most part, runneth now naturally by Crowland into Neane, which confirmeth the said report; and that Neane lyeth the lower, and that but little of Welland water goeth by Foss Dike.

8. That part of the levell between Welland and Neane lyeth descending from Welland to Neane 4 or 5 foot,

and if the River of Neane should be carried to Welland, then the water of Neane must be raised higher than it runneth naturally, and bee kept between two banks, and one bank will not serve, as it may by bringing Welland into Neane. And in such a case, the town of Peterborough, the receptacles and all, would be drowned upon every petty flood, especially all the lands between Stand-ground and Peterborough.

There are some men, which either out of ignorance, Object. or for other ends to hinder this good work, object, that if Welland should be turned to Neane, it might in the first place hinder the level drayned by the Earl of Lindsey; and secondly, Boston Deepes.

For the Earl of Lindsey's works, which ran into the Answer. fall a mile and a half above Fosse Dike, I answer, that put the case the outfall should utterly decay, then the Earl of Lindsey's drayne may be brought below Fosse Dike, and so fall into the deep outfall there, where there is an open way to the sea; but that outfall will not decay, but remain always (as the work will be contrived) for the river Glean shall always goe that way for so much thereof as the bank can contain, which will be a greater quantity than now cometh thereby, because the banks, by the scowering of Glean, will be made the more sufficient, and also part of Welland, all the summer if need shall bee, to water the country, and keep the outfall open by the lock at Waldron-hall, which will be so much as now there goeth by Welland old channel; for the most part now goeth by Crowland, and drowneth Thorney, Crowland, and Peterborough Fenns, and goeth that way to Wisbich as is aforesaid, and in the winter drowneth them, and all Deeping and Ellow, and all the country and nearer towns to the outfall.

And in the winter there will be all the downfall of Crowland Fenns, Deeping Fenns, and the Earl of Lindsey's Level, on the north of Glean, which will all fall



into that outfall together with Glean, which will be able to keep it sufficiently open for Glean, and the downfall; and if there shall want (as there will not) more will be sent either by a drain through Deeping Fenns, or by the old channel of Welland: but it shall not need; one year's experience will take away all the fear, for there will be water enough. And for instance, the leams at Long Sutton (which runneth through the like soyle) hath been and is kept open through the sands of the sea by the four gates near Luton, about 7 miles from Spalding Outfall, and doth run but 7 or 8 months in the year. Those waters which doe and always have kept open the said leame, are not so much as the 20th part of that water which shall goe to Welland Outfall by these works; which makes it evident that Welland Outfall will be kept open. And further take examples by all the outfalls on the coast of Lincoln and Norfolk, where all the outfalls are kept open, and yet have no river to help them, but nevertheless are kept open by the downfall only.

It is in use and practice every day, where the havens or outfalls in the Low Countries have no river, to make a pan, and at every tyde to take water into the said pan, and so they do keep open their outfalls of two or three miles long; but Welland hath a better remedy: that outfall (as it will be there contriv'd) will be the best outfall of the country.

If it were not to preserve navigation for Spalding, it were not amiss to bring all the downfall of Deeping and Thorney through Elbow, and so to Wisbich Outfall by a new channel; and this is another remedy.

It is considerable to be spoken of thus far, because that the works may be very well contrived thus or towards Wisbich, all parties provided for and saved thereby, and so well for the navigation of Spalding to Wisbich, instead of that of Fosse Dike, as for the downfall.

As touching Boston Deepes, I answer that the floods of the sea come over all the sands which lye between them and the point of Norfolk, and doe returne with the ebb towards the north thither again; and these ebbs are that which have always maintained Boston Deepes.

It is not the River of Welland and that of Boston that can do it; they are but small waters, especially that of Welland, and the less powerfull when it cometh abroad into a vast place where it is not to be discerned. For instance, Welland cannot make a deep in a narrow channel at Foss Dike, but at every low water travellers ride through, the water being not above half leg deep, which sheweth that it hath neither force nor great quantity of water.

And consider, that when Welland went by Wisbich, yet Boston Deepes were then: I did not ground my reason upon Sir Clement Edmond's Report, and that there is lescent from Welland to Neane, but doe likewise take it into consideration that the great stone bridge at Spalting, through which some small part of Welland water did come in the winter time, which was of great antiquity, was not twelve foot in the water-course, and but five foot deep, and the stone pillar or pier in the midst thereof, which supported both arches, was but now of late taken away by the drainers of Deeping Fenns when they did widen the river; which maketh it evident, that but little of Welland water went that way either of late or anciently; yea, less then now the downfall will amount unto as I do contrive it.

Moreover consider, that when the River of Welland went to Wisbich, then the bridge at Boston stood firme, and in ancient time was made with doors to shut out the floods, in manner of a sluice, that it should not go higher than the towne, which bridge now hath none, so that the sea doth now flow up with a great quantity of water 20 miles by the water-course above Boston. Yet so



long ago, when the said river had not the fourth part of the ebb which now it hath, and that Welland as afore-said did goe to Wisbich Fall, yet Boston Deep was, and the town had then a great commerce in wooll and other merchandize. And the reasons why it was so, is that the ebb which cometh over the sands which lye between Norfolk and it, cometh that way, and so keepeth a deep there which could not otherwise bee possibly maintained.

For the rivers are not such as to keep open a depth of such wideness as Boston Deep is, especially among the sands of the sea. If it were not for the ebbs of the sea, it would soon decay. Moreover, the River of Wisbich ebbs towards the north by Boston Deep into the sea, and if the River of Welland be brought to Wisbich, it must go that way likewise to the sea, as now it doth; so in this case it makes no alteration.

Object.

It is objected by some that it were better to let the River of Welland goe between banks to Spalding, and the River of Neane to Wisbich, and so leave two outfalls.

Answer.

1. That two rivers to be brought into one will make a better outfall, and such an outfall will serve the country in general better than two outfalls, and will never decay.

2. That two outfalls will burthen the maintenance more than 1,000*l.* yearly at least, att all advantages.

3. That it will require 18 miles of banks more and draines, and the charges thereby increase at least 20,000*l.* and 1,000*l.* the year for the maintenance more, and make a worser work.

*Now for the Particulars concerning the contriving of the Works between the River Glean and Morton's Leame.*

For the overplus of the river Glean which drowns Deeping Fenn on that side of the country, is to be brought by a drain into Welland above Deeping, and the slakers to be removed, and the channel to be kept within the banks thereof. I doe resolve only to take the overplus of the river Glean, that the remainder may be kept within the banks, and the slaker to be removed to save Deeping Fenn on that side. And that the towns by which the said river runneth may not want water, and to keep Welland Outfall thereby, and if need be, the sooner to gather head by means of the sluice and sasse which are to be below it on Welland to scower the outfall; and by the said sluice likewise the downfall of this level shall issue by Welland: and the said drain above Deeping is to take away also Stow-brook and the downfall of all the country between Welland and Glean, which now runneth into Deeping Fenn and drowns it.

The River of Welland is to be brought unto Morton's Leame; therefore a new river is to be cut, to begin near Waldron-hall, and so go on towards the bridge which leads from the Upland to Thorney Abby, somewhat below the bridge, and from thence below Willow-hall, and so to Morton's Leam. And next unto Welland a sasse to be set to let water into Old Welland and to preserve navigation. Whereby will be left on that side of the country between the upland ground and the banks, some quantity of meadow ground and pasture, to serve for receptacles for water in the winter; but these grounds will be by the white waters, and the making of the rest of the land winter grounds, become of a greater value than they are now; and this number of acres and the rest of



the receptacles which are to be left every where, will not exceed the quantity which would be left between bank and bank, if every channel or river were imbanked, and thereby the waters of the rivers, and the waters which in time of great rains come from the hills, will be kept between the uplands and the banks, and from the drayn'd land; and this will prevent the rising of the waters to a great height, and the banks will thereby in a measure bee disburthened, and so the lands better freed from inundation then by any other way, and the towns which lye without the banks be kept safe from drowning.

The River of Wisbich, from Guyhurn downward, must be widened, to make it sufficient for both waters. The sluice at Clowes Cross, made to issue the waters of the fenns must be stopped, and the fenn waters for that part of the country must goe part to Crowland, and so by Spalding to the sea, and by Murra Plash, as need shall require; and if the fall can be gained at Guyhurne, part may goe by Wisbich, otherwise Welland and Murra Plash must remain the only drains for the downfall, which are not sufficient to receive it.

By these works the lands of Ellow will be freed from inundation, and Deeping be safe, together with the rest of all the lands in that level from Glean to Morton's Leame, and thereby the lands of Ellow, and on the north side of Wisbich, will be discharged of the fenn waters which did run above the same all the winter by the Shire Drayne. And now to the contrary, Welland and the Shire Drayne will be turn'd to be good servants instead of ill masters to those countries, to issue their downfall all winter by them. And so they will be made sure and certain countries; and if the owners of the lands of Ellow and the north side of Wisbich cleanse their ditches to lead away their downfall, they shall not want any further head drains other than that of Welland and the Sheire Draine. The Sheire Draine must be for a cer-

tain length amended something and altered, and a sluice to be set next the outfall of Wisbich River to issue the waters of Ellow and the north side of Wisbich; which outfall will last always, the work being made as aforesaid.

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*The Work which lyeth in the Middle, between Morton's Leame and Bedford River, the River now running through it.*

This part is to be drained by a bank which is to go from Standground to the Fields of Wittlesey, and from Eldernell to Guyhurn on that side. On the other side a bank to be made from or near Erith Causey along Bedford River to Poedike Bank or Salters Load, and by these banks the waters of Neane on the one side, and the Ouse on the other side, will be fenced out of this part of the Levell, and Neane hereby will be turned to Wisbich.

But when Neane is turned to Wisbich, and so to the sea with Welland, though there be provision made for all those waters in time of extremity, to bed on between bank and bank, and between the bank and the upland; yet the channel of Wisbich from Guyhurne to the sea will not bee sufficient (may be objected) to issue the said waters of the said rivers, and so the levels on both sides may be endangered, and the banks be overflowed and broken down when great waters come down, for want of sufficient issue made from Guyhurne to the sea. Object.

I confess that it is needfull to make the opening of Wisbich River in a larger manner than now it is, and as is heretofore spoken of. Answer.

But yet its a question, when there is sufficient room left for the water to bed on, whether in such a case the opening in a great measure every where shall be needfull; and my reason is, that when all those waters are put that way, the river lying in a sandy ground, they will grind their own outfall, especially the lower ends thereof, and make itself navigable, and more deep by far than now it is; and the sluice at the Horseshoe will not be sufficient to carry away the water, therefore the water is to be cut through near the sluice, if the river, by the straight line through the north side of Wisbich be not made, and by this work either way a fall will be gained.

That this part of the fenn will issue its downfal that way so well as if it were in the Ouse, because that anciently the waters of Neane and the most part of that of Welland and Ouse by the West Water, went by Wisbich to the sea; and that the channel at that time could not be broader, as may be guessed and seen, then now it is. It shall not need to be widened any more. The two rivers meeting will grind the channel through the marsh and make Wisbich a haven town like that of Lynn though not in such measure of wideness.

And that objection of the sands which the flood bringeth in, and so stoppe the channell again, is not to be considered now; for when there is a river which hath a back water, as this will have, it will grind deep, and open itself by the water at every ebb; and for instance, the Ouse, from Little Port to Lynn, keeps his depth by reason of the back waters; so will Wisbich River keep itself open, having the water of these two rivers.

**Object.** Because it may be objected, that the inhabitants of Peterborough have navigation from their town to Lynn by the river Neane as now it runneth, which will then be taken away.

**Answer.** It is answered, that the works being thus contrived, they shall not need to fetch and carry their commodities



so far, but go the nearest way to Wisbich, and then it shall not be requisite to have a navigable sluice at Stand-ground (unless they and the towns thereabouts shall give sufficient reason for it), which I shall endeavour to avoid with such like works as I can, because they are both chargeable and dangerous in the makeing and maintaining; and having their navigation to Wisbich, they shall need no other.

There is for the service of this work, in the opinion of Object. most men, a drain to be made from Well to fall into Ouse about Germans Bridge, thereby to lead the downfall of this level to the sea, with a sluice in the head thereof.

For answer hereunto I say, that my opinion is: That Answer. this drain and sluice, the reason of the third work, and of the opening of Wisbich River considered, shall not be needfull; for if the Ouse at Salter's Load be disburthened of the confluence of waters now it hath, then the Poedike where it fall into Ouse, will issue four times more water than now it doth; for the Ouse doth now receive farr more water than it shall after the third work be made as hereafter is expressed; and thereby it must consequently follow, that this draine from Well to Germans Bridge shall not be needfull.

Moreover the great receptacles which are in this Levell by the great Meeres of Witlesey, Ramsey, &c. make it evident, that the downfall will never want a head drain on that side; for if there were one, yet the waters would first go to the receptacles, and there lye untill the drains receive them: and in that interim the channel of Neane will be sufficient to send it down in good time to the fall, considering the Poedike to be as sufficient as Neane can be; and the waters of Peterborough being turned to Wisbich, it will disburthen the channell of Neane and the Levell in generall.



*The Third Work, being a Level on the South Side of Bedford River, and so along and between the Uplands of Suffolk, Norfolk, and Cambridge.*

The River of Ouse is the principall river that runneth through this part of the country to the sea, and cometh from Huntingdon by Saint Ives to Erith, where it be-  
 ginneth to come into three fenns, and so to Ely, then to Littleport, and from thence to Salter's Load, Downham, and Lynn, and so to the sea; and with the other rivers doth familiarly over runn all these fenny lands on all occasions of floods, which come down by the rivers; and as this River of Ouse goeth down through the fenns, the River of Grant, which cometh from Cambridge, falls thereinto, some distance above Ely; the River of Brandon likewise falls into it at Priests-Houses, and the River of Stoke falls into it something above Salters Load; and all these loose their names by Ouse. A great part of the river Neane, which cometh from Peterborough, doth fall into the Ouse, likewise all which meeting in one at or about Salter's Load, doe surcharge the river in such manner as that this part of the country is more overflown and dangerously drowned than any other parts of the fenn are; and the said several rivers which fall into Ouse, except Neane, do fall into the south side thereof, the one above the other, and all of them cross wise inclining to the north, and the Ouse running to the east, in such a manner indeed, as if the lands were made purposely to be overflown, and so to remain; the thwarting thereof divides it into several levels, the one above the other; and if those lands should be drained by severall divisions, then the one level must put his water on the other, and so annoy the one by discharging the other,

which would make an imperfect work; and my reason thereof I have given more at large heretofore. To have this part of the country and those several levels drained and made winter ground, they must be made but one level, and many great alterations are to be made therein, by bringing the very rivers which run through it another way; for as they cross-ways fall into Ouse, those lands cannot be made winter grounds by the ordinary way of draining, as heretofore is made mention of.

Therefore, the principal river, which is Ouse, may not go down through the fens, as now it doth, but the best way is to turn that river at Erith into and next unto Bedford River, and to shut the passage of Ouse, as now it goeth, by a cross bank through the river to the firm land, and so force it into that course as now Bedford River goeth, whereby all the lands below Erith will be freed from the overflowing of Ouse.

And to the end that the water of Ouse shall not annoy the country any farther, the said Bedford River is to be imbanked on each side thereof, to keep Ouse within certain bounds: the banks thereof must be a great distance the one from the other, so that the water, in time of extremity, may go in a large room to keep it from rising too high, and the more, because there is a great distance of about 25 miles from Erith before it cometh to the perfect fall. And those lands which are to bee left for the waters to bed on, will be good meadow ground within some time, improved by the water of Ouse to a great value. The three Rivers of Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoke, must bee made one river, and to that end Mildenhall must be brought into Brandon, and both into Stoke, and all into Ouse; and in that manner that the downfall of that level may be brought through a drain to be made to a better fall than that of Stoke for the downfall of Grant to go in.

The land between the new cut and the banks, to the



number of four or five thousand acres by guess, will be fit receptacles for the waters at all times of extremity, and the old rivers will thereby remain to be sufficient drains to lead the downfall to Ouse within the stop. The Upland Country from Mildenhall to Stoke, is a barren and sandy country. Therefore, the meadows which are to be left between the banks and the uplands as aforesaid, will be very usefull for them, and receive by the white waters within some time as good an improvement as any other lands made winter grounds.

The River of Neane being turned to Wisbich, as is aforesaid in the second worke, none other river remains to be taken order with but Grant; and this river must be led away by Ouse, in such manner as the alteration of the works shall appear to require, after all the other works be done.

And for the brooks and runlets which lye that way, they are likewise to be guided, as upon the alteration shall appear to the best service.

By this alteration, all the rivers except Grant are turned out of their usual course, so that the old channel of Ouse, which was the channel for Ouse, Grant, Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoke, having now to receive but Grant alone with the downfall, will find room enough within the channel without much imbanking.

To facilitate this work for a perfection, there must be made a sufficient fall for that levell by a sufficient drain to begin at Ouse Stopp, and so to go downward near the fall underneath Stoke, if need be, to bring Grant and the downfall by this drain below into Ouse at the Ouse Stopp through the sasse, and the sluice to be made there a good quantity will issue; but all cannot issue there, nor at all times, for the rivers, when they are up, will take away the fall; and the drain for Grant to go in must have a good fall continually, to speed the waters of Grant away, because it is mixed with the downfall of

that levell, contrary to the rule of draining; and therefore by art it must be observed how that must be, according to the operation which shall happen. And though it be against the rule to mix the downfall with the river, yet in this case it cannot be avoided. And the channel of Ouse, being of a great wideness and depth, whereby it receives not only Ouse, but also Grant, Mildenhall, Brandon, Stoke, and part of Neane, and the tyde of the sea will be sufficient when all the rivers and confluence of waters are led and turned out of this channel, save Grant only. And that there is made a new river or passage to the fall as is aforesaid for Grant and the downfall, which being done, I conceive this channel of Ouse being of such wideness and depth, will be able to receive with ease, the River of Grant, together with the downfall, without prejudice of the lands, the workes being contrived accordingly as they should be.

Consider that if the three rivers should fall into Ouse where Stoke River now falls in, that then the Ouse will leave all the same waters which it had before except Neane, and then the Ouse will not be so farr discharg'd. That the drain may be spared, for the River of Grant and the downfall of the level to go in, but must go underneath Stoke in a pipe or tunnel, and so in the drain, go into Ouse where the fall is sufficient, unless the turning of Ouse a straighter way to the sea do not hinder the fall; but this must be contrived according to the event thereof, and before no certainty can be had therein.


And if the three rivers be brought to fall into Ouse where the fall is good and sufficient, then the Ouse at the outside of the sasse, will be discharged of that quantity of water, which together with Neane, I esteem a moiety of all the water it had before, and no question but thereby a sufficient fall for the downfall may be gained, and not be put to a drain for Grant, and the downfall in that measure of charge which otherwise it would be.



And by this it may plainly appear to your Majesty, that near the moiety of banks which in the other way of ordinary drayning are to be made, are cut off, and consequently the charge for the makeing and maintaining of them, lesser this way, than by any the other designe.

And hereby the land will become more certain for habitation, and by reason thereof, of a farr greater value than otherwise.

And this is as much as I can inform your Majesty by writing.



## No. XVIII.

## AN ACT

FOR THE

DRAINING OF THE GREAT LEVEL OF THE  
FENS,

Extending itself into the Counties of Northampton,  
Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge, and Hunting-  
don, and the Isle of Ely, or some of them.

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Die Martis, 29 Maii, 1649.

*AN ACT for the Draining of the Great Level of the* 1649.  
*Fens, extending itself into the Counties of Northampton,*  
*Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon,*  
*and the Isle of Ely, or some of them.*

WHEREAS the said Great Level, by reason of frequent  
overflowing of the Rivers of Welland, Neane, Grant,  
Ouse, Brandon, Mildenhall, and Stoke, have been of  
small and uncertain profit, but (if drained) may be im-  
proved and made profitable, and of great advantage to  
the commonwealth, and to the particular owners, com-  
moners, and inhabitants, and be fit to bear coleseed and  
rapeseed in great abundance, which is of singular use to  
make soap and oils within this nation, to the advance-  
ment of the trade of clothing and spinning of wool, and  
much of it will be improved into good pasture for feed-  
ing and breeding of cattle, and of tillage to be sown

Preamble.

Boundaries of  
the Level.

with corn and grain, and for hemp and flax in great quantity, for making all sorts of linen cloth and cordage for shipping within this nation; which will increase manufactures, commerce, and trading at home and abroad, will relieve the poor by setting them on work, and will many other ways redound to the great advantage and strengthening of the nation: And first, to the end it may be known what that Great Level is, and for the ascertaining the extent, bounds, and limits thereof, and for prevention of all doubts, questions, and ambiguities touching the same, be it enacted, ordained, and declared by the authority of this present Parliament, that the moors, marshes, fenny and low surrounded grounds, bounding themselves eastward from the bridge and causey of Stoke unto Brandon Bridge, upon the uplands of Northwold, Methwold, Feltwell, Hockwold, and Wilton in the county of Norfolk, and from Brandon Bridge unto the end of Worlington Lode upon Mildenhall River, upon the uplands of Brandon, the low grounds of Waynsford excluding the same, the uplands of Laking Heath, the low grounds of Eastwell excluding the same, and the uplands of Mildenhall in the county of Suffolk, southward from Worlington Lode unto Burwell Block, upon the uplands of Freckingham, Isleham, Fodham, Soham, and Wicken in the county of Cambridge, and excluding the low grounds of Burwell, Lanward, and other places lying eastward from Burwell Block aforesaid; and from thence unto the Mill near Anglesey Abbey, upon the uplands of Burwell Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Bottesham in the said county of Cambridge, and from thence unto the Ferry-place at Clayhith, upon the uplands called Qui Hall, the low ground called Low Fen, and the uplands of Horningsey and Clayhith, in the said county, excluding the low grounds called Low Fen and Offen, and from the said Ferry-place unto Over Lode, upon the uplands



of Waterbeach, Cottenham, Rampton, Wivelingham, and Over, in the said county of Cambridge, and upon the low grounds of Swacey in the said county, excluding the same westward from Erith, unto the dam lately made upon the river Neane near Standground, upon the Uplands of Somersham, and the Soake thereof, Warboys, Wistow, Berry, Ramsey, Upwood, Raveley, Woodwalton, Sawtrey, Connington, Glatton and Holme, Caldicot, Denton, Stilton, Yaxley, Fasset, and Standground, in the county of Huntingdon, excluding the low grounds lying on the north side of the river Ouse above Erith; and from the said dam unto Peterborough Bridge, upon the said River of Neane; and from thence unto the Ferry-place near Waldram Hall upon the Uplands of Peterborough and the Soake thereof in the county of Northampton, northward from the said Ferry-place near Waldram Hall unto Crowland Bridge upon the River of Welland, and from thence to Dowsdale upon the banks of Great Porsand, and from thence unto Guyhurne upon the Southea Bank, and from thence unto Tilneyhurne upon the bank of the fen ground called Waldersey, and from thence unto Elme Leame at Grangers House upon the bank of the fen ground called Coldham, and from thence unto the River of Neane near Thurlings in Upwell, upon the bank of Needham called Bishops Dike, and from thence unto Well Creek at the north-west corner of Walsingham Fen, upon the bank of the grounds in Upwell and Outwell, called Plawfield and Churchfield, excluding the aforesaid fens and grounds called Waldersey, Coldham, Needham, Plawfield and Churchfield; and from thence unto Salters Lode upon the new Podike Bank, and from thence unto the mouth of the river Wissey upon the river Ouse, and from thence unto Helgey Bridge upon the river Wissey; and from thence unto the upland at the end of the bank of the grounds late of Edmond Skipwith, Esq. deceased,



Exception of  
Edmond Skip-  
with's grounds.

95,000 acres  
set out in Oc-  
tober, 13 Car.  
1. to Earl of  
Bedford.

upon the said bank; and from thence unto Stoake Bridge, upon the Uplands of Roxham, Dereham, Wereham, Wretton and Stoake in the said county of Norfolk: And all moors, marshes, fenny and low surrounded grounds, within the bounds, limits and precincts aforesaid, are and be, and shall from time to time hereafter by virtue of this act be taken and esteemed to be the said Great Level, to be drained as hereafter is expressed; except always the imbanked grounds late of the said Edmund Skipwith, Esq. lying on the north side of the River of Ouse. And whereas Francis late Earl of Bedford, in his life-time, did undertake the said work, and had ninety-five thousand acres, parcel of the said Great Level, decreed and set forth in October in the thirteenth year of the reign of the late King Charles in recompence thereof; and he and his participants, and the adventurers in the said work, and their heirs and assigns, have made a good progress therein with expence of great and vast sums of money, and so far proceeded as that the greatest part of the said ninety-five thousand acres was divided by twenty lots and shares amongst the said Francis Earl of Bedford, adventurers and participants, and their assigns; but by reason of some late interruptions, the works there made have fallen into decay, so that the intended benefit to the commonwealth hath been in a great measure hitherto prevented and delayed: And whereas William now Earl of Bedford, son and heir of the said Francis, late Earl of Bedford, and the said participants and adventurers, their heirs and assigns, are content to proceed effectually in the said work of draining, and forthwith after the passing of this act to begin and prosecute the same without cessation or intermission, until the work be done, unseasonable times and extremity of weather only excepted; to the end therefore so public a work, proper for the care of a Parliament, may continue, proceed, and be prosecuted with justice,

equality and effect, Be it enacted and ordained, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the said William Earl of Bedford, the said participants and adventurers, and his and their heirs and assigns, be and are hereby declared to be the undertakers of the said work of draining the said Great Level, and shall at or before the tenth day of October, which shall be in the year of our Lord 1656, cause the same to be drained and imbanked, without prejudice to the navigation in the said rivers or the parts adjacent; and all the said Level, except as hereafter is excepted, shall be made winter ground, in such manner as the said rivers or any of them shall not overflow the grounds within the said Level; breaches by inevitable accidents, which are in convenient time to be repaired and made good again by the said William Earl of Bedford, participants and adventurers, his and their heirs and assigns, only excepted; and except such lands and grounds, parcel of the said level, which are not to exceed fifteen thousand acres at the most, which may be left in several places for receptacles and beds for the water upon sudden rains and floods, besides the meers, pools, and channels within the said Level which are not intended to be drained. And be it therefore further enacted and ordained, that the said William now Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Esq: Robert Henley, Esq. and Robert Castle, Esq. their heirs and assigns, upon the trusts hereafter following, and in recompence of the aforesaid charge and adventure, and for bearing the charge of draining and maintaining the works from time to time, shall have and enjoy the said whole ninety-five thousand acres, as well those parts which were not, as those which were comprised within the said twenty lots, parcel of the said Great Level, and lying within the boundaries as before-mentioned, as the same have heretofore been set forth in October in the thirteenth year of the reign of the said

William Earl of Bedford declared undertaker.

Time to complete the draining till October 1656, without prejudice to navigation.

To be made winter ground,

inevitable breaches excepted.

Receptacles not to exceed 15,000 acres, besides meers, pools, &c.

Four trustees

to enjoy the lands as set out



in October, 13  
Car.

Four trustees  
to execute es-  
tates upon re-  
quest.  
Commission-  
ers hereafter  
named to de-  
termine differ-  
ences.

William Earl  
of Bedford,  
participants  
and adventu-  
rers, to make  
new, or enlarge  
any old cuts,  
&c.

Free egress  
with carts, car-  
riages, &c.

late King, or hereafter shall by virtue of this Act be allotted, set forth, severed, or divided for that purpose, to hold to them the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns, to the use of them, their heirs and assigns, in trust nevertheless for the said William Earl of Bedford, participants and adventurers, and their heirs and assigns, who had or have the said twenty lots, and the heirs of such assigns, and for no other person or persons, according to their several and respective proportions, and to execute estates accordingly upon request. And in case any difference shall arise, who be, or ought to be, adventurers and participants, or assigns, or about proportions assigned, then the commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, shall have power to determine the same. And it is hereby further enacted and ordained, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said William Earl of Bedford, his participants and adventurers, and his and their heirs and assigns, and the persons employed by them, to make any new or enlarge any old cuts, sasses, sluices, drains, banks, receptacles, or other works necessary or conducing to or for the said draining, through or upon the grounds of any person or persons within or without the said Level; and for that purpose from time to time shall have free passage, ingress, egress, and regress, for themselves, their agents and workmen, and their horses, carts and carriages, into, by and through the said grounds or any part thereof; paying or tendering to the owners of, and parties interested in the said ground, for all such cuts, sasses, sluices, drains, banks, receptacles, or other works made or to be made in and upon the grounds without or within the said Level, such reasonable recompence as by the said owners and parties interested shall be agreed upon; or if any difference happen therein, then as shall be ordered and adjudged by the commissioners hereafter named, or

by any six or more of them. Provided, that the said Earl of Bedford, participants, adventurers nor commissioners, nor any of them, shall, by any authority hereby given or granted, intermeddle with the River of Welland, or interrupt the fall of the waters into the same, nor draw any the waters from the said river; but that all the waters in and falling into that river, shall be suffered to go into the direct course to Spalding and so to the sea, for the preservation of the country by clearing the outfall; nor shall, by any authority hereby given or granted, make any cuts, drains, or other works, in, upon or through any parts of Deeping Fens, but that the same be wholly left to the drainers of those fens as formerly. And be it further enacted and ordained, That no commissioner or commissioners of sewers, by virtue or colour of any commission in that behalf, shall at all intermeddle in the said Level, to interrupt, disturb or molest the said William Earl of Bedford, his participants, adventurers, his and their heirs and assigns, agents and workmen in the carrying on and perfecting of the said work; and that the said Earl of Bedford, his participants, adventurers, heirs and assigns, or any five or more of them, shall have power to collect and levy, as well the arrears of old taxes formerly set upon and among themselves, as to set new taxes upon and among themselves, and levy money out of the said ninety-five thousand acres for and towards the charges of the said work of draining, and all other charges tending to or depending upon the same, according as they or any five or more of them in their judgments shall think fit; and to make orders and rules for the doing and maintaining the said work, and to govern and manage the same; and to appoint and employ such officers, agents, ministers, and workmen, and to change them or any of them, and to employ others in their rooms, from time to time as they shall think fit; and also shall have power to give recom-

Not to meddle with the River of Welland.

No commissioners of sewers to intermeddle.

Five participants or adventurers as well to collect old arrears of taxes as settle new.

To make orders and employ workmen, &c.



Any five participants to sell for non-payment of taxes.

pence to such officers, agents, ministers, surveyors, workmen, and all other person or persons whatsoever, employed by them in or about the said work of draining, or maintaining thereof, in land out of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or money, or both, as they or any five or more of them in their judgments shall think fit: And that if the said William Earl of Bedford, participants, and adventurers, his and their heirs and assigns, or any of them, which now have or hereafter shall have any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, shall refuse or make default to pay such arrears or proportionable tax or taxes as shall be laid on them, in respect to his or their share in or out of the said ninety-five thousand acres, by such five or more of the participants and adventurers as aforesaid, that then for such default the lot or share in the said lands of such as shall not bring in and pay their tax and taxes so to be laid, shall be forthwith sold by such five or more of the said participants and adventurers as aforesaid, in such proportion as they shall think fit, restoring the surplusage of the money, if any be, for raising and payment of the said arrears, tax or taxes, by any writing under any five or more of their hands and seals; and the person or persons to whom such sale shall be made, shall be a lawful assignee of so much as shall be so sold, to all intents and purposes. And whereas after the work shall be done, there will require from time to time a care to uphold and maintain the same, be it enacted and ordained, that no commissioners of sewers, by virtue of any commission in that behalf, shall at all intermeddle in the said Level, but that the commissioners named this Act, and such others as shall be hereafter nominated in their rooms from time to time under the great seal of England, or by Act of Parliament: And the said William Earl of Bedford, participants and adventurers, his and their heirs and assigns, each of them, the said Earl, participants and adventur-

ers their heirs and assigns, having two hundred acres a-piece of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any five or more of them, after the said work of draining shall be adjudged, and none other person or persons, shall within the said Level have such and the same power and authority, as commissioners of sewers, authorized by Act or Acts of Parliament heretofore made and enacted, and now in force, have or might have within the said Level: And also shall have power to make taxes from time to time, upon the ninety-five thousand acres only, for the upholding, repairing and maintaining of the said works: And shall have power by virtue of this Act, for levying of the said taxes, to sequester and receive the profits of the defaulters lands, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, for satisfying the same, or to take distresses in and upon the same: and shall have further power for the maintenance of the said work, to make such by-laws and orders, as by and according to the laws and customs of Romney Marsh is provided or used, as well for the laying and raising of taxes for the maintainance of the said work, as for the making and appointing officers for the overseeing and maintaining thereof from time to time, and allowing fit salaries and recompence for the same, and for all other necessary purposes and things, as they shall think fit and requisite in that behalf, out of the said ninety-five thousand acres only. And be it further enacted and ordained, that the commissioners hereafter named, or any five or more of them, shall hereby have power to meet in the Middle Temple Hall, London, upon the seventh day after the end of every term, there to advise and direct, do and act, according to the powers in this act given to them; and shall have power from time to time to adjourn their meeting to such other time and place as they shall think fit, and hereby shall have power, by view or otherwise as to them shall seem meet, from time to time, when and so often as any part

Each person having 200 acres to have power of commissioner of sewers.

Power to lay taxes.

to levy, sequester and distrain,

make by-laws.

Commissioners to meet.



When 30000  
acres drained,  
to adjudge.

To deliver  
seisin of so  
much of the  
95000 acres  
as shall lie  
therein.

And when the  
whole drained,  
the 95000  
acres to be  
delivered.

To hold of the  
manor of  
East Green-  
wich.

or parts of the said Level, amounting to the quantity of thirty thousand acres or more, shall be drained as aforesaid, to judge the same to be drained, and forthwith to give the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley, and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns in trust as aforesaid, seisin and possession of his and their proportions of the ninety-five thousand acres formerly set forth as aforesaid, or according to such alterations therein as shall be made by virtue of this Act, lying within the said quantity of thirty thousand acres or more that shall be so adjudged: And that the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns, upon such trust as aforesaid, shall from thenceforth quietly and peaceably hold and enjoy the said proportions that are or shall be set forth and allotted to them: and the said whole ninety-five thousand acres, when the said whole Level shall be adjudged to be drained as aforesaid, whereby they shall become true and lawful owners thereof, and rightfully seised to them and their heirs, to the use of them and their heirs, upon such trust as aforesaid, to hold the same, without any let, interruption, diminution or disturbance of the said late King, his heirs or successors, or any claiming by, from or under him; and shall hold the same of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, in fee and common soccage, and not otherwise; any law, decree, act of sewers, or any thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And whereas some particular persons and parishes do conceive that the draining in one place would drown or make worse their lands in other places, and whereas likewise divers persons have or will receive benefit by the said draining, and do not yet contribute towards the said ninety-five thousand acres; and others do conceive and fear that they shall be drawn to contribute to the same though they receive no benefit thereby, and do fur-

ther alledge that the said ninety-five thousand acres in in many places are not indifferently set out ; be it therefore further enacted and ordained, that the said commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, shall have power within three years after the said draining adjudged, and such possession given as aforesaid, to give or make, and shall give or make satisfaction out of the ninety-five thousand acres, to such person or persons whose lands or interest therein shall be made worse in quality or condition by the aforesaid draining, than they were before the undertaking of the draining of the said Level, in the sixth year of the reign of the said late King, and proportionable to the loss and damage the owners and occupiers of such lands shall receive by reason of the said draining ; and also shall have power within the said three years to give allowance to the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley, and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns, (in trust as aforesaid) out of all such lands as are not contributory to the said ninety-five thousand acres, and shall be better in quality or condition for and by reason of the said draining, or be thereby secured from overflowings and inundations, and proportionable to the benefit the owners and occupiers of such lands shall receive thereby ; and shall also have like power, within the said three years after possession given as aforesaid, to alter, change and restore such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as shall be found upon complaint to be unequally and unduly set forth, and shall thereupon set forth in lieu thereof, like proportions in such other places within the said Level as shall then be adjudged to be drained, to and for the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns, to be by them quietly enjoyed in trust, and to be holden of the said manor of East Greenwich as aforesaid ; the Parliament hereby declaring that in the adjudication care shall be

To give satisfaction for lands made worse than in 6 Car. 1.

Power within three years to give allowance for all lands bettered which do not contribute to the 95000 acres.

To restore lands unduly set forth,

and set forth others in lieu.



Lands receiving no benefit not to contribute.

To adventure for 2000, 1000, or 500 acres,

except the 20th lot.

Adventurers to subscribe in a book what they adventure for,

at the rate of 50*s.* per acre to be paid to treasurer.

taken, that the lands, which since the said undertaking in the said sixth year of the said late King have not or shall not receive benefit by the said draining, may not be made contributory to the said ninety-five thousand acres, nor to the charges of the said draining, but that the contributions shall be taken only out of such lands as shall be bettered by the said draining. And be it further enacted and ordained, that any person or persons, bodies politick or corporate, shall and may be admitted to adventure for any quantity or share of two thousand acres, one thousand acres, or five hundred acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, so as the whole quantity of land, which all person or persons, bodies politick or corporate so to be admitted to adventure for, exceed not thirty thousand acres, to be indifferently divided and set out to such adventurers in any part of the said twenty lots, except in one lot in the Lordship of Thorney, belonging to the said William Earl of Bedford, at the rate of fifty shillings an acre; to have and to hold to them and their heirs, so as the party or parties so desiring to adventure shall, within three months after the passing of this act, subscribe in a book to be appointed by the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, or any two of them, to be kept for that purpose, for how many acres he or they will make choice to adventure for, and so as one half of the whole sum, which the adventure of any person or persons, bodies politick and corporate so adventuring at the rate of fifty shillings an acre, shall amount unto as aforesaid, shall be paid in to such treasurer or receiver as shall be appointed by the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, or any two of them, before the end of three months next after the passing of this act, and the other half thereof within one year next after the passing of this Act: And from and after such payments,

the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, their heirs and assigns, to stand trusted for such party or parties so adventuring, their heirs and assigns, according to their proportions adventured for, as for the other former adventurers and participants, and their heirs and assigns. And the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle, or any two of them, are hereby authorized to appoint as well a treasurer for receipt of all such monies, as a clerk for keeping the said book, and shall have power to change them as often as they shall see cause, and to dispose the money paid in by any such new adventurer, or any part thereof, for the perfecting the said work of draining; and the surplusage, if any be, amongst the said William Earl of Bedford, and former adventurers and participants, their heirs and assigns, and such person or persons from whom any land, part of the ninety-five thousand acres, shall be taken by reason of such new adventurers, shall receive a full and proportionable compensation for such lands out of the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, from every one share and share alike, according to the proportion of the adventure, except the said William Earl of Bedford's lot in Thorney, for which nevertheless he is to be contributory in proportion by other his lands, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, for supply thereof; and in case any difference arise about the setting out any such adventures or proportioning of satisfaction, the commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the same: and such person or persons adventuring as aforesaid, shall not pay or be contributory to pay any more than the said sum of fifty shillings an acre, for or towards the doing of the said work of draining; yet nevertheless every such person or persons so adventuring, after the said work of draining or any part thereof shall be judged to be done,

Trustees to appoint treasurer and clerk.

Differences about setting out adventures to be determined by commissioners.

After draining, adventurers shares to contribute to repairs and maintenance.



Law of Sewers,  
19 Jac.

Law of Sewers  
at Huntingdon,  
14 Car. 1. de-  
clared null and  
void.

Earl of Bedford  
and adventur-  
ers to meet  
and enter in a  
book names  
and shares of  
adventurers.

No conveyance  
of 95,000  
acres to be va-  
lid but from  
time of entry  
in a book by  
clerk, or inrol-  
ment in Chan-  
cery.

shall always afterwards, for the quantity of his and their adventure, be liable and equally contributory, according to his and their proportion, to and with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, for and towards the repairs, maintenance and keeping of the said works of draining: And whereas by a law or decree of Sewers, made in the nineteenth year of the reign of King James, one hundred and twenty thousand acres were decreed to be given for the draining of the said Level; and whereas by another Law or Decree of Sewers, made at Huntingdon, in the fourteenth year of the reign of the said King Charles, fifty-seven thousand acres over and above the said ninety-five thousand acres, were also decreed to be given for the said draining; now to the end the country may not be double charged, nor any diminution of the recompence hereby intended to be given for the said work, be it therefore further enacted, That the said two Laws or Decrees of Sewers shall from henceforth be null, void, and of none effect, to all intents and purposes whatsoever. And to prevent differences between the adventurers and participants, their heirs and assigns, and that adventurers and purchasers may enjoy what of right to them belongs, be it further enacted, that the said William Earl of Bedford, adventurers and participants, their heirs and assigns, or so many of them as will, do meet the Thursday fortnight, next after the passing of this Act, in the Middle Temple Hall, London, and there chuse a treasurer and clerk; and within three months after the passing of this Act, cause to be entered by the said clerk in the aforesaid book the names and particular shares of each adventurer, participant, or heir or assignee of any adventurer or participant in the said ninety-five thousand acres: And that no conveyance hereafter to be made, either by the said William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley, and Robert Castle, and their heirs, in pursuance of the aforesaid trust or otherwise, or any assignment, lease, grant, or

conveyance by any adventurer or participant, their heirs or assigns, of any of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any thing or charge upon or out of the same, shall be valid or of force, until such assignment, lease, grant or conveyance or charge shall be entered in the book with the said clerk for the time being, or inrolled in the Chancery. And be it further enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, that the commissioners hereafter named, or any six or more of them, shall and may inform themselves by examination of witnesses upon oath, which hereby they or any six or more of them shall have power to administer, and by their own view, or by both or either of the said ways, as in their judgment shall be expedient, of all such points, matters and things which in their judgments are or shall be necessary, for the better and more speedy executing all and every the powers hereby given them, and doing justice therein according to the true intent and meaning of this Act. And the sheriffs, and all other officers and ministers of all and every the respective counties in which the premisses lie, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting in all and singular the premisses. And it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority aforesaid, that William Lenthall, Esq. Speaker of the Parliament, the Lord Keeper, Lord Chancellor, or Lord Commissioner or Commissioners of the Great Seal of England for the time being, all the Judges of the Upper Bench and Common Pleas, and Barons of the Court of Exchequer for the time being, Philip Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, William Earl of Salisbury, Edward Lord Howard Baron of Escrick, Sir John Danvers, Knight, Sir John Burgoyne, Knight, Sir John Bouchier, Knight, Sir Thomas Walsingham, Knight, Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston, Knight, Sir Gilbert Pickering, Knight and Baronet, Sir Dudley North, Knight, Sir John Trevor, Knight, Sir Peter Wentworth, Knight of the Bath, Sir John Eve-

Commissioners after named, on examination of witnesses on oath, and their own view, may adjudge of matters necessary to be done, according to the intent of this act.

Sheriffs and officers to assist them.

Commissioners named.



lyn of Wilts, Knight, Sir Henry Mildmay, Knight, Oliver Cromwell, Lieutenant General, Henry Ireton, Commissary General, Robert Reynolds, Esq. Miles Corbet, Esq. Nathaniel Bacon, Esq. John Maynard, Esq. Henry Darley, Esq. Robert Brewster, Esq. John Crew, Esq. John Trenchard, Esq. John Palmer, Doctor of the Laws, John Goodwin, Esq. Colonel Valentine Wanton, Talbot Pepys, Esq. Alexander Rigby, Esq. John Gourdon, Esq. William Leman, Esq. Thomas Toll, Esq. Francis Bacon, Esq. Nicholas Love, Esq. Luke Robinson, Esq. Richard Cromwell, Esq. Colonel Edward Rossitor, John Selden, Esq. Nathaniel Fines, Esq. William Pierrepont, Esq. John Dove, Esq. Colonel Francis Russell, Richard Knightley, Esq. John Fry, Esq. John Sadler, Esq. Edward Eltonhead, Esq. Jeremiah Whitecot, Esq. William Steel, Esq. William Stephens, Esq. John Stephens, Esq. Thomas Duckett, Esq. John Lowry, Esq. and every of them, are hereby appointed and authorized commissioners to hear, determine, order, adjudge and execute all such matters and things as are prescribed in this Act before limited. And it is lastly ordained by authority aforesaid, That all and every person or persons concerned or to be concerned by this Act, or which shall do any thing in execution of the same, shall and may upon any action, suit or information, plead the general issue; and upon any issue joined may give this Act in evidence, which shall be of equal force and validity as if the same had been especially pleaded, and all judges, justices, jurors and others, so to accept the same.

Actions brought for any thing done in executing of this act, defendant may plead the general issue, and give act in evidence.

## No. XIX.

## GENERAL ACT,

15 CAR. 2. c. 17.

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ANNO REGNI CAROLI II. REGIS ANGLIÆ,  
SCOTLÆ, FRANCIÆ ET HIBERNIÆ, DECIMO  
QUINTO.

At the Parliament begun at Westminster the eighth Day  
of May *Anno Domini* 1661, in the thirteenth Year of  
the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lord  
Charles, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland,  
France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued till the nineteenth of May in the  
fourteenth Year of his Majesty's said Reign: and  
thence prorogued to the eighteenth of February then  
next following :

And there continued to the twenty-seventh of July in the  
fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign: and thence  
prorogued to the sixteenth of March then next fol-  
lowing.

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*AN ACT for settling the Draining of the Great Level of 1663.  
the Fens called Bedford Level.*

WHEREAS certain moors, marshes, fenny and low Preamble.  
surrounded grounds within the counties of Northampton,

Boundaries of  
the Level.

Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge and Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely were called the Great Level of the Fens, and after several fruitless undertakings for draining the same were, upon the desires of many persons of worth and interested in the same, declared to be a great and noble work, and of much concernment to the whole country, and at their earnest desire undertaken to be drained by Francis late Earl of Bedford, according to a Law of Sewers made at King's Lynn in the sixth year of the reign of the late King Charles of glorious memory, which said Level is bounded as followeth, (*viz.*) eastward from the bridge and causey of Stoake unto Brandon Bridge upon the uplands of Northold, Methold, Feltwell, Hockwold and Wilton in the county of Norfolk, and from Brandon Bridge unto the end of Worlington Lode upon Mildenhall River, upon the uplands of Brandon, the low grounds of Wainsford excluding the same, the uplands of Lakingheath, the low grounds of Earsewell excluding the same: and the uplands of Mildenhall in the county of Suffolk southward from Worlington Lode unto Burwell Block upon the uplands of Frekingham, Islham, Fordham, Soham and Wickin in the county of Cambridge, and excluding the low grounds of Burwell, Landward, and other places lying eastward from Burwell Block aforesaid, and from thence unto the mill near Anglesey Abby upon the uplands of Burwell Reach, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck, and Botsham in the county of Cambridge; and from thence unto the Ferry-place at Clayhith upon the uplands called Quayhall, the low ground called Low Fen, and the uplands of Horningsey and Clayhith in the said county, excluding the low grounds called Low Fen and Offenne; and from the said Ferry-place unto Over Lode upon the uplands of Water-beach, Cottenham, Rampton, Wivelingham and Over in the said county of Cambridge, and upon the low grounds of Swacy in the said county, ex-

cluding the same westward from Erith unto the dam lately made upon the River Neane near Standground upon the uplands of Somersham and the Soake thereof, Warbois, Wistow, Berry, Ramsey, Upwood, Raveley, Wood-walton, Sawtre, Connington, Glatton, and Holme, Caldecott, Denton, Stilton, Yaxley, Fassett and Standground in the county of Huntingdon, excluding the low grounds lying on the north side of the River of Ouse above Erith; and from the said dam unto Peterborough Bridge upon the said River of Neane; and from thence unto the Ferry-place near Waldron Hall upon the Uplands of Peterborough and the Soake thereof in the county of Northampton; and northward from the said Ferry-place near Waldron Hall unto Crowland Bridge upon the River of Welland, and from thence to Dowsedale upon the bank of Great Porsand, and from thence unto Guyhurne upon the Southea Bank, and from thence unto Tilnehurne upon the bank of the fen ground called Waldersea, and from thence unto Elme Leame at Grangers House upon the bank of the fen ground called Coldham, and from thence unto the River of Neane near Thurlings in Upwell upon the bank of Needham called Bishops Dike, and from thence unto Well Creek at the north-west corner of Wassingham Fen, upon the bank of the grounds in Upwell and Outwell called Playfeild and Churchfeild, excluding the aforesaid fens and grounds called Waldersea, Coldham, Needam, Playfeild and Churchfeild; and from thence unto Salters Lode upon the new Podyke Bank, and from thence unto the mouth of the River Wissey upon the River Ouse, and from thence unto Helgay Bridge upon the River Wissey, and from thence unto the uplands at the end of the bank of the grounds late of Edmond Skipwith, Esq. deceased, upon the said bank, and from thence unto Stoake Bridge upon the uplands of Roxham, Deerham, Weerham, Wretton and Stoake in the said county



Except Mr.  
Skipwith's  
ground.

Recites Francis  
Earl of Bedford's under-  
taking, and to  
have 95,000  
acres.

Indenture of  
fourteen parts.

Incorporated.

Earl William's  
undertaking.

Act of May  
1649.

of Norfolk, except the imbanked grounds late of Edmond Skipwith, Esq. lying on the north side of the River of Ouse. And whereas the said Francis late Earl of Bedford was to have, for his recompence of effecting that difficult work, only ninety-five thousand acres of the said grounds, with convenient highways and passages to the same; and the new rivers, cuts and drains to be made by the said Earl and his assigns, and the banks of the same and the forelands in the inside of the said banks not to exceed sixty foot in breadth, which was a work of so great and public concernment, that his said late Majesty gave great encouragement to the said Francis late Earl of Bedford, and others, whom he had taken in to be adventurers and participants with him therein, upon the covenants, conditions and agreements contained and specified in and by a certain indenture of fourteen parts, bearing date the seven and twentieth day of February in the seventh year of the reign of his said late Majesty, and his Royal assurance to further it by his concurrence to an Act of Parliament for establishing thereof, and did by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England incorporate the said late Earl, his adventurers and participants, to have succession for ever; and in order to the effecting thereof, the said late Earl and his adventurers and participants bestowed great sums of money for perfecting the same; and after his death, and some interruptions, William now Earl of Bedford, son and heir to the said Earl Francis, with divers of his adventurers and participants, by colour of a pretended Act of Parliament of the nine and twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, proceeded in the compleating and finishing the said works, and the commissioners appointed by that pretended Act did adjudge the same drained; but the same cannot be preserved without a perpetual constant care, great charge and orderly government, which being represented to the

King's most Excellent Majesty that now is, he hath been graciously pleased to declare more than an ordinary willingness to promote and countenance a work of so publick concernment, and many ways advantageous to this his kingdom. To the end therefore that a work of this nature may receive publick support and encouragement :

II. Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, with the advice and assent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said William Earl of Bedford, son and heir of the said Francis Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as is herein contained, shall be a body politick and corporate in deed and name, and have succession for ever, by the name of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens ; which corporation shall consist of one governor, six bailiffs, twenty conservators and commonalty, and shall have and use a common seal to be appointed by themselves, and assemble and meet together when, where, and as oft as they please, and appoint a Register, Receiver, one or more Serjeants at Mace, and other officers, and allow them salaries, and remove them and make new at their pleasure. And the said William Earl of Bedford is to be the first Governor ; Richard Lord Gorges, Sir Richard Onslow, Knight, Sir William Terringham, Knight of the Bath, Samuel Sandys, Thomas Chicheley, and Samuel Fortrey, Esquires, the six first Bailiffs ; Sir Gilbert Gerhard, jun. Knight, William Denton, William Crane, Edmond Berry Godfrey, Arthur Evelyn, Samuel Smith, Roger Jennings, Robert Castle, Robert Hampson, Joseph Ayloffe, Esquires, Thomas Lord Culpepper, Sir John Hewett, Baronet, Arthur Onslow, Robert Phillips, Anthony St. John, Esquires, Sir Oliver St. John,

Earl William  
and partici-  
pants incorpo-  
rated.

To continue  
till Whitsun-  
week 1664.

To sue and be  
sued.  
To purchase  
lands.

Governor,  
Bailiffs and  
Conservators,  
or any five,  
whereof Go-  
vernour and  
Bailiffs to be  
two, may lay  
taxes.  
Penalty not to  
exceed a third  
part.  
And all other  
things do, re-  
lating to the  
support, &c.

Earl of Port-  
land's 2,000  
acres.

Sir Charles Harbord, Knights, Francis Hoblyn, Samuel Sandys, jun. and Robert Terringham, Esquires, the first Conservators. And the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators to continue until Wednesday in Whitsun week in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and four, and from thenceforth until new elections by the said corporation, or the major part which shall be then present; and shall be capable to sue and be sued, and without licence of mortmain to purchase manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, not exceeding two hundred pounds *per annum*, and goods and chattels, and to dispose thereof in the name, and to the use of the said corporation; and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs or any of them to be two, shall and may lay taxes from time to time upon all the said ninety-five thousand acres only for support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, and levy the same with penalties for non-payment, not exceeding a third part of the tax, and all other things do in order to the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level and works made and to be made.

III. And whereas by the said Law of Sewers twelve thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, were designed and intended to his said late Majesty, and were set forth and allotted by bounds in severalty, and his said late Majesty was in possession thereof, and granted, assigned, allotted and set out by bounds two thousand acres, parcel of the said twelve thousand acres, by letters patents, unto Jerome Earl of Portland,\* his heirs and assigns, of which said two thousand acres the said Earl of Portland hath sold away about one

\* This family were not ancestors, or indeed in any way related to the present noble family of Bentinck, who came into England with King William the Second, A. D. 1688.

Their family name was Weston. Richard Weston, Esq. was created the

thousand five hundred acres in several parcels to several persons, their heirs and assigns, for valuable considerations, and the residue thereof, being about five hundred acres, hath granted and conveyed unto his brother Benjamin Weston, Esq. and his heirs, upon several trusts agreed upon between the said Earl of Portland and Benjamin Weston, by writing for that purpose :

IV. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said two thousand acres, or such other lands of equal value as shall be set forth in exchange of the same, in case the forementioned two thousand acres, or any part thereof, shall hereafter be adjudged to have been unduly set out, shall be, and hereby are vested, settled and established in the said several and respective persons, (to whom the said Earl of Portland hath so conveyed or mentioned to convey the same) their heirs and assigns respectively, to each person, his heirs and assigns, his and their several and respective share and shares, that was so respectively to each of them conveyed or mentioned to be conveyed by the said Earl of Portland, to be held or enjoyed by them or each of them, his heirs and assigns, his and their own share and part only in severalty, according to the intent of the said conveyances thereof to them respectively made by the said Earl of Portland ; upon the same trusts nevertheless for and concerning the said five hundred acres granted or mentioned to be granted to the said Benjamin Weston, which the said Earl of Portland and Benjamin Wee-

1st Baron Weston and K. G. ; afterwards in 1633, Earl of Portland and Lord High Treasurer : ob. 1634.

2. Jerome, son and heir of Richard : ob. 1662.

3. Charles, son and heir of Jerome : ob. 1665.

4. Thomas, uncle and heir, second son of Richard, first Earl : ob. 1698, when the title became extinct.

This family appears to have been possessed of considerable estates, particularly at Over in the county of Cambridge, and Wood-walton in the county of Huntingdon.



ton had declared and agreed upon between them as aforesaid: which said two thousand acres shall be holden of the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, of the manor of East-Greenwich, by fealty only in fee and common soccage, and not otherwise, and subject nevertheless with the residue of the ninety-five thousand acres in equal proportion to all taxes and charges necessary and conducing to the preservation of the said Great Level from drowning.

83,000 acres  
vested in the  
Corporation.

In trust for  
William Earl  
of Bedford,  
&c.

To be held in  
soccage.  
10,000 acres  
vested in the  
King, subject  
to taxes.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the eighty-three thousand acres, remainder of the said ninety-five thousand acres, with the said ways, passages, new rivers, cuts, drains, banks, and forelands, over and above the said ten thousand acres, residue of the said twelve thousand acres which were allotted in severalty, and of which his said late Majesty was in possession as aforesaid, are hereby vested and settled in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their successors: in trust nevertheless for the said William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner and wise as is hereinafter more particularly and especially limited and provided; and according to such parts and proportions as they respectively now hold and enjoy, or by virtue and provision of this Act ought to hold and enjoy, subject and liable likewise to the payment of all taxes and charges as aforesaid, to be holden of the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, of the manor of East-Greenwich, by fealty only in free and common soccage, and not otherwise: and the said ten thousand acres, residue of the said twelve thousand acres, (whereof his said late Majesty was in possession as aforesaid) are hereby vested and settled in his Majesty that now is, and his assigns, subject and liable, with the

residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to the same taxes and charges before specified. And because the said Great Level of the Fens extends into the said six counties, besides the Isle of Ely, and forasmuch as commissioners of sewers cannot legally proceed in execution of their commission, but by a several jury of every county to enquire of the matters within their commission in that county, which hath heretofore inforced the said Earl, his participants and adventurers, commissioners and countries, to very great trouble, loss and expence, both of money and time; for avoiding which inconveniencies, it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation for the time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs for the time being, or their successors, or any of them, to be two, for maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level by convenient outfalls to the sea, shall for ever hereafter be, and are hereby made and constituted commissioners of sewers for and of the said Great Level of the Fens: and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, and their successors, or any of them, to be two, are hereby enabled and empowered from henceforth to use and exercise the power and authority of commissioners of sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, and of the works made or to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying of the waters of the said Great Level by convenient outfalls to the sea, touching all matters and things whatsoever happening to be executed or done within the said Great Level, or the said works without the said Great Level, enquirable, punishable, or to be done by commissioners of sewers, and therein to act and proceed by one or more juries of good and lawful men, inhabiting within any part or place within the boundaries of the said Great

Commissioners  
of Sewers con-  
stituted.

Five or more a  
quorum, Go-  
vernor or Bai-  
liffs to be two.

Within the Le-  
vel, and works  
without.

Proceed by one  
jury.

Award precepts  
to summon and  
return juries.

Juries to ap-  
pear.

Try all matters  
within the pow-  
er of Commis-  
sioners of Sew-  
ers.

Laws and cus-  
toms of Rum-  
ney-Marsh.

Level of the Fens, though in several counties, as if the said Great Level of the Fens lay within one of the said counties only, and shall have power to employ the said serjeants, or any of them for the time being, by warrant or precept from the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, and their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, under the common seal of the said corporation, to summon and return juries within the boundaries of any part of the said Great Level, and execute all precepts and process from them, from time to time, and all other things do, as fully as any sheriff within his respective county may or can do by warrant or precept from commissioners of sewers; which juries are to appear at the times and places set or appointed for them to appear before the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, and their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs, and their successors, or any of them, to be two; and are hereby impowered to inquire of, present and try all matters within the said Great Level, and of and concerning the said works made or to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying of the waters of the said Great Level by convenient outfalls to the sea, within the power of commissioners of sewers, as if the same lay within any one of the said counties, or as if the said Great Level were one distinct county of itself: And the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall have further power, as well for the maintenance of the said Great Level as for laying and levying of taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, to use and exercise, within the said Great Level, such and the like laws and customs, and constitute and appoint such and the like officers, from time to time, as are, or lawfully may be used in Rumney-Marsh in the county of Kent; they who

exercise the said power of commissioners of sewers first taking the oath which commissioners of sewers are by the law to take, the which oath the said governor and bailiffs, or any of them, are hereby impowered to administer from time to time without any further commission.

VI. And because the metes and boundaries of the said grounds within the said Great Level, as to the counties and parishes, are very uncertain and hard to be distinguished, be it therefore further enacted, That every writ, bill, plaint, count, declaration, information, presentment and indictment, of, for or concerning the said grounds within the said Great Level of the Fens, or any part or parcel of the same, or any trespass, offence or wrong done, acted or committed within the said Great Level, and proceedings thereupon, shall be good and sufficient in law, though the county, parish, town or place, or any of them, in such writ, bill, plaint, count, declaration, information, presentment or indictment be not rightly named, so as there be such other certainty or description of the place whereby the same is or may be commonly known.

Mistakes of counties, parishes, &c. supplied.

VII. And be it further enacted, That no other commissioners of sewers shall intermeddle within the said Great Level, or with any the works made or to be made for the support, maintenance or preservation of the said Great Level, within or without the said Great Level, as aforesaid, otherwise than hereafter in this Act shall be provided.

No other Commissioners of Sewers to intermeddle.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all conveyances by indenture of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, entered within the said register in a book to be kept for that purpose, shall be of equal force to convey the freehold and inheritance of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, as if the same conveyances by indenture were for valuable considera-

All conveyances of the 95,000 acres to be entered, and to pass the freehold.



No lease,  
grant, &c. to  
be of force,  
but from en-  
try, except  
leases for se-  
ven years.

tions of money enrolled within six months in one of the King's Courts of Record at Westminster; and no lease, grant or conveyance of, or charge out of, or upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, except leases for seven years or under, in possession, shall be of force but from the time it shall be entered with the said register as aforesaid, the entry whereof being endorsed by the said register upon such lease, grant, conveyance or charge, shall be as good and effectual in the law, as if the original book of entries were produced at any trial at law, or otherwise.

To execute es-  
tates.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty shall execute estates according to the aforesaid trust under their common seal, the taxes and penalties then in arrear being first paid, which for non-payment are by virtue of this Act to be levied by sale of the lands.

Taxes arrear to  
be levied by  
sale,

other than, &c.

X. And be it further enacted, That for the levying such taxes and penalties as are now in arrear, or at any time since the thirtieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight, (other than such as are hereby otherwise directed to be levied) or which shall be set and imposed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres by virtue of this Act, and shall be in arrear upon the respective parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, and their successors for the time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs for the time being, and their successors, or any of them, to be two, for levying such taxes and penalties which now are or shall be so in arrear, upon the respective parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, shall, on Wednesday and Thursday in Whitsun week, or either of them, every year at the Shire-house in Ely aforesaid in the said Isle of Ely, have power only to sell so much of such

Whitsun week  
to sell.

parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, upon which any tax shall be in arrear, or penalties in such proportion, as the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, or their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall judge to be sufficient to raise such taxes and penalties, by any writing under the seal of the said corporation; and the person or persons to whom such sales shall be made, shall be a lawful purchaser and assignee of so much as shall be sold, to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

Lawful purchaser.

XI. Provided, that by any colour of any sale for non-payment of taxes, any tenant or tenants at will, or by lease indented, upon improved rent of any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, shall not be removed from his or their possession, until he or they shall have taken his or their crop from off the premisses so sold, paying reasonable rent, proportionable to the time that such possession shall from and after such sales be continued; and such tenant or tenants, as shall hold any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres by lease, as aforesaid, shall and may, if he or they shall think meet, continue out their respective terms, paying their rent to such purchaser in proportion to the quantity of acres so purchased; any thing herein contained to the contrary in in any wise notwithstanding: Provided, that the said corporation, nor their successors, shall not sell any part or proportion of the said ninety-five thousand acres for any tax or penalty in arrear, which tax or penalties shall not be in arrear by the space of four months next before the sale, nor any more lands than only for the raising of such taxes and penalties.

Saving to tenants to continue.

Provided, &c.

To be arrear four months before the sale, and to sell no more than only to raise the tax and penalty.  
To give notice of the parts arrear.

XII. Provided also, That the said corporation shall give publick notice from time to time of the parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, for

which any tax or penalties is or shall be in arrear, by affixing openly at the Shire-house or Market-place in Ely aforesaid, a schedule in parchment under the seal of the said corporation, containing such parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, for which any tax or penalty is or shall be in arrear, with the name and names of the respective owner or owners, entered upon the tax roll, with the said corporation, of the said parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres so in arrear.

Corporation  
may erect new  
works within  
or without the  
Level.

If cut several  
grounds to give  
satisfaction.

To destroy  
works treble  
damages ;

if maliciously  
done, felony.

Officers to be  
sworn.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the said corporation shall and may, from time to time, erect any new works within the said Great Level or without the said Great Level, for conveying the waters of the said Great Level by convenient out-falls to the sea ; so always that if they cut any several grounds, they give full recompence and satisfaction for the same, in such manner as shall be hereafter in this act provided. And if any person or persons shall cut, throw down, or destroy any of the said works made or to be made, as aforesaid, the parties offending shall answer treble damages to the said corporation, and costs of suit, to be recovered in an action of trespass to be brought by the said corporation in any of his Majesty's courts of record ; and if such cutting, throwing down, or destroying, shall be maliciously done, the same shall be punished, as for the cutting the podyke in marsh land.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That the said William Earl of Bedford, nominated to be governor, and every other from time to time into that office chosen, shall (before he take upon him or them the exercise of that office) take an oath, that he will well and truly execute that office in all things ; the which oath shall and may be administered by the said bailiffs, or any one of them : and the said bailiffs, conservators, register, receiver, or other officer nominated as aforesaid, and every

other from time to time, into any of the respective offices to be chosen, shall (before he or they take upon him or them the exercise of the said respective offices) take the like oath for the true executing their respective offices; the which oath shall be administered by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any two or more of them, without any commission or further warrant.

XV. And for the continuance of the said corporation in succession for ever, Be it further enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs, conservators and commonalty, upon Wednesday in Whitsun week yearly, shall at a public meeting to be holden for the said corporation by the greater number then present, (whereof the said governor, or one of the bailiffs to be one) elect a new governor, bailiffs, and conservators respectively: provided, that none be capable to be, or continue governor or bailiffs, that hath not four hundred acres, or more, of the said ninety-five thousand acres, nor to be conservator that hath not two hundred acres, or more, of the said ninety-five thousand acres, nor any of the commonalty to have a voice in elections that hath not one hundred acres, or more, of the said ninety-five thousand acres. And that the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any of them, shall and may be removed by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, and commonalty, or the greater number of them present at their public meetings, whereof the said governor or one of the bailiffs to be one, and new chosen in the place of him or them so dead or removed: and the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty also shall have further power to have, demand, and receive an accompt from all and every the officers, agents, and servants, their executors and administrators heretofore employed, or hereafter to be employed, for the receiving and paying of money for or in relation to the carrying on of the works of the draining of the said Great Level, and shall

New elections  
in Whitsun  
week.

Governors and  
bailiffs to have  
400 acres.

Conservators  
200 acres.

Commonalty  
100 acres.

May be re-  
moved.

To demand ac-  
compts from  
officers.



Arrears of rent  
may be reco-  
vered.

Plead general  
issue.

King to have  
such title to the  
83000 acres as  
any persons  
attainted had.

Recital of  
shares sold by  
the act of May  
1649.

and may sue for, and recover the same; and that all arrears of rent already incurred upon or out of any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres upon any contract or lease of the said premisses, or any part or parcel thereof, shall be received and recovered, as if the said pretended act had been a good and effectual act; and if any suit be commenced against the said corporation, or any person, for any matter or thing done in pursuance of this act, then he or they shall or may plead the general issue, and give the special matter in evidence, upon any trial to be had touching the same, which shall be as good and effectual in law, as if the same had been specially pleaded, and the jury upon the trial to give a verdict accordingly.

XVI. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as touching and concerning such part and parcel of the said eighty-three thousand acres, whereof any person or persons attainted, or that shall be attainted, was or were in possession at any time since the nine and twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, under pretended sales thereof respectively made by colour of the said pretended act, or under any other title or pretended title whatsoever, the King's most Excellent Majesty, his heirs, successors and assigns, shall have the same and like benefit, advantage and interest in all and every the said parts and parcels of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and no other than as the said persons so attainted, or which shall be attainted, could or ought to have by virtue of this act in case they had not been so attainted, or shall not be attainted. And whereas the shares, lots, parts, and proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand acres, which in pursuance of the said indenture of fourteen parts, and by virtue or intention of the said act and law of sewers made at Lynn, do belong and appertain to the said Samuel Sandys the

elder, or his trustees, Sir William Terringham, Sir Richard Onslow, and other the assignees and trustees of Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surrey deceased, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Thomas Lord Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert Scawen, and to divers other persons, the participants of the said Earl Francis, and parties to the said indenture, or their respective heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, are now possessed and enjoyed by divers persons, who took, contracted for, or accepted of, or by such who claim and derive their interest and title from and under such persons as did take, contract for, or accept of pretended estates or conveyances of the same, made, or pretended to be made by certain persons mentioned in and by the said pretended act of the nine and twentieth day of May one thousand six hundred forty and nine, to have authority to sell the shares, lots, parts and proportions of such of the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis, and of their respective heirs and assigns, as should refuse or make default of payment of such taxes, as should by colour and in pursuance of the said pretended act be imposed upon them respectively, in respect of their shares and lots, in or out of the said ninety-five thousand acres.

XVII. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the said company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, shall actually stand seised and possessed of all and every the shares, lots, parts and proportions last mentioned, in trust nevertheless to and for the use and behoof of the said Samuel Sandys the elder, or his trustees in trust for him, Sir William Terringham, Sir Richard Onslow, and others the said assignees and trustees of Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surrey deceased, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Thomas Lord Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert Scawen, and of their respective heirs and assigns, and to and for

Corporation to stand seised for Sandys and other persons, their heirs and assigns.

the respective uses and behoofs of the said other persons, the participants of the said Earl Francis, and parties to the said indenture of fourteen parts, and of their respective heirs and assigns now out of possession of their respective shares, lots, parts, and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, as heretofore in or about the month of October in the thirteenth year of the reign of the late King Charles of ever blessed memory, were respectively allotted, severed, set forth or divided, for or as the respective shares, lots, parts and proportions of such of the adventurers, the participants of the said Earl Francis, and parties to the said indenture of fourteen parts, their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, from and under whom the said Samuel Sandys the elder, or his trustees, Sir William Terringham, Sir Richard Onslow, and others the assignees and trustees of Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surrey deceased, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Thomas Lord Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert Scawen, and the said other persons, the participants of the said Earl Francis, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, now out of the possession of their respective shares, lots, parts and proportions, do respectively claim and derive their said shares, lots, parts and proportions; and the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators, are hereby authorized and required to execute respective estates of the said shares, lots, parts and proportions accordingly, subject and liable nevertheless with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, in equal proportion to all taxes and charges to be laid and imposed by virtue of this act, for preservation of the said Great Level from drowning. And whereas the persons now in possession of the said last mentioned shares, lots, parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, whereof pretended estates and conveyances were taken,

To execute  
estates to them,

as to purcha-  
sers under the  
pretended act.

contracted for, or accepted of, as aforesaid, do preend that they or those under whom they do respectively claim and derive their right, title or pretensions to the said shares, lots, parts and proportions respectively, have laid out and disbursed for taxes for and towards the maintenance, preservation and repair of the works of the said Great Level heretofore erected by the said Earl Francis and his participants, and for and towards their erection of new and necessary works, for the better and more effectual draining of the said Great Level, and for building upon the said shares, lots, parts and proportions, more monies than the clear rents, issues and profits of the said shares, lots, parts and proportions have amounted to since the said respective pretended estates and conveyances were first taken, contracted for or accepted, as aforesaid.

XVIII. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, and it is hereby enacted, That the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, and the Justices of the said Court of Common Pleas for the time being, or any two or more of them, are hereby constituted, appointed, and erected a judicature, or commissioners to hear, order, judge, decree, and determine upon bills and answers, to be exhibited, or otherwise as they shall think fit, between the said persons who are now in the possession of the said respective shares, lots, parts and proportions, and the respective heirs and assigns of the said persons now in possession, as aforesaid; and the said Sir Richard Onslow, and other the said assignees and trustees of the said Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surrey deceased, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Thomas Lord Culpepper, the said Samuel Sandys the elder, or his trustees, Sir William Terringham, Robert Phillips, Robert Scawen, and the said other persons participants of the said Earl

Judicature  
erected to pro-  
ceed by bill  
and answer.



Any two commissioners to adjudge to either party.

Francis, and their respective heirs and assigns, who are now out of the possession of the said shares, lots, parts and proportions respectively, and to whom respective estates are, by virtue of this act, to be executed of the same, as aforesaid; and the said judicature or commissioners, or any two or more of them are hereby authorized out of the said shares, lots, parts and proportions, to order, adjudge, decree and determine to either of the said parties respectively, such recompence and allowance as they the said judicature or commissioners, or any two or more of them shall see cause. And for the better enabling the said judicature or commissioners to proceed to the hearing, ordering, adjudging, decreeing and determining, and for putting in due and speedy execution such order, judgment, decree and determination, as they or any two or more of them shall make between the said parties;

Power of the Court of Chancery.

XIX. It is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That they the said judicature or commissioners, or any two or more of them, shall have such and the like power and authority, as the High Court of Chancery hath in cases before the said court depending, and for putting in execution the decrees of the said court. And to the end that the said judicature may be the better enabled to judge of the rights and pretensions of either party;

Respect to monies expended by either party.

XX. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in every decree or determination which they shall make by virtue and in pursuance of this act, they shall have regard to the sum and sums of money actually disbursed and expended by either party in the works of draining the said Great Level, and in the preservation and reparation of the same; and also to the respective times of such disbursements and expence, defalking thereout such sum and sums of money as have been received by either party, their tenants or assigns, for the

rents, issues and profits of the same, and abating out of the interests of the money disbursed by either party, so much as the interest of the money received by such party for the rents, issues and profits of the same doth amount unto. And to the intent that the persons, who by the true intent and meaning of this act are to be put in possession of any part of the said eighty-three thousand acres, may not, by undue delays, or by any other means or pretensions, be kept out of the possession of the same;

Abating profits received, and interest.

XXI. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That at any time or times, after the expiration of six months after the passing of this act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Samuel Sandys the elder, and his trustees for him, Sir Richard Onslow, and others the assignees and trustees of Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surrey deceased, Arthur Earl of Anglesey, Thomas Lord Culpepper, Sir William Terringham, Robert Phillips and Robert Scawen, their and every of their respective heirs and assigns, and to and for the participants of the said Earl Francis, parties to the said indenture of fourteen parts, their, and every of their respective heirs and assigns, whose lands, shares, lots, parts and proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand acres, were sold, or pretended to be sold, for non-payment of taxes, by virtue of the said pretended act of the nine and twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and forty-nine, to bring their respective action or actions of trespass, or trespass and ejectment, in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, or Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, against any person or persons whatsoever, possessing, withholding, or occupying the same, although the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or so many and such of them as are thereunto authorized by this present act, have not or shall not execute estates pur-

After six months may bring actions although estates not executed.

Governor, bailiff and conservators, or so many or such of them, as are thereunto authorized.



Claim under  
fourteen parts  
indenture;

as if the gover-  
nor, bailiffs and  
conservators  
had duly exe-  
cuted estates.

Hold as if the  
governor, bai-  
liffs and con-  
servators had  
executed es-  
tates subject  
to the inden-  
ture.

Taxes arrear  
upon lands in  
dispute.

Commissioners  
to direct who  
shall pay taxes.

suant to this present act, to such person or persons hereby enabled to bring such action or actions; and such person or persons shall recover such lands, shares, lots, parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, as they respectively shall make and derive title and claim unto, as participants of the said Francis Earl of Bedford, parties to the said indenture of fourteen parts, or as the respective heirs or assigns of the said respective participants, parties to the said indenture of fourteen parts, as if the said governor, bailiffs and conservators had duly executed respective estates of such respective lands, shares, lots, parts and proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres, according to the true intent and meaning of this act. And such person or persons, his and their respective heirs and assigns, shall have and hold the same lands, shares, lots, parts and proportions, as fully and effectually as if the said governor, bailiffs and conservators had executed respective estates thereof, subject nevertheless to such decree as the said judicature or commissioners before nominated and appointed shall make touching or concerning the premisses, and also subject to the payment of all taxes to be laid and imposed by virtue of this Act, and no other. And whereas there are several sums of money amounting to four thousand pounds or thereabouts, in arrear for taxes laid and imposed since the nine and twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and eight, upon several parts of the said ninety-five thousand acres, subjected by this Act to the judicature aforesaid, and for penalties incurred for non-payment of the same, by virtue or colour of some act or authority, or pretended act or authority;

XXII. Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or judicatory, or any two of them aforesaid, shall have power and authority, and are hereby required, in such adjudication as they

shall make touching the lands subjected to their judicature as aforesaid, to direct, order and decree, upon what persons or lands the said sums of money so in arrear for taxes and penalties as aforesaid, shall be charged, and the said taxes and penalties shall be accordingly levied upon such person or lands, and in such manner, and by such ways and means as shall be directed, ordered and decreed by the judicature aforesaid, or any two of them; and as if such direction, order and decree had been particularly hereby enacted;

XXIII. And whereas particular persons and parishes do conceive and alledge, That the draining of one place hath drowned and made worse the lands in other places: and whereas divers persons likewise do alledge and complain, That the said ninety-five thousand acres in many places are not indifferently set out or allotted according to the law made at Lynn in the sixth year of the late King Charles, nor according to agreement made with the country; but in many places greater quantities have been taken from the owners, commoners and townships than ought to have been; and that some lands have been taken as belonging to one parish and county, which in truth did belong to another; and in many places the allotments have been taken very inconvenient for the townships, which ought not to have been by the said agreement: and whereas the draining aforesaid, and future maintenance of the said Great Level ought to be without prejudice to navigation: and because all complaints which have been made, and all prejudices which have been or shall be done to particular persons, parishes and places, cannot by this Act be sufficiently provided for and remedied;

Complaints re-  
cited.

Without preju-  
dice to naviga-  
tion.

XXIV. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Sir John Tracy, Knight, Sir Charles Mordant, Sir Nicholas L'Strange, Baronets, Sir William Hovel, Knight, Edward Peppis, Humphrey Bedding-

Commission-  
ers.



field, Nicholas Stileman, Esquires, for the county of Norfolk;

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knight of the Bath, Sir Lyonel Tolimach, Baronet, Sir John Duncombe, Knight, Sir Edmund Pooley, Knight, Sir George Reve, Knight and Baronet, Sir George Weneve, Knight, Thomas Waldgrave, Esq. for the county of Suffolk;

Sir Dudley North, Sir Thomas Wendy, Knights of the Bath, Levinus Bennet, Esq. Robert King, John Pepis, Doctors of the Law, Thomas Crouch, Francis North, Esquires, for the county of Cambridge;

Sir Thomas Sclater, Baronet, L'Strange Colthrop, John Millicent, Thomas Hall, John Sotheby, Esquires, John Bing, Esq. and William Wren, Esq. for the Isle of Ely;

Sir Francis Compton, Knight, Robert Appreece, Sutton Ashfield, Esquires, Anthony South, Doctor of the Law, Robert Payne, Richard Nayler, — Ferrers, of Gedding, Esquires, for the county of Huntingdon;

Sir William Dudley, Knight and Baronet, Maurice Tresham, Francis Kirkham, Lewis Palmer, Christopher Thursby, Francis Lane, George Tresham, Esquires, for the county of Northampton;

Sir Charles Hussey, Sir John Newton, Baronet, Sir Thomas Meeres, Sir Anthony Irby, Knights, Sir Anthony Oldfield, Baronet, Richard Brownlow, Daniel Rhodes, Esquires, for the county of Lincoln, shall be and are hereby made and constituted the present Commissioners for the purposes herein mentioned.

To supply defects of commissioners.

XXV. And for the supplying the number of the Commissioners of the said respective counties, in case of death or other avoidance, or incapacity; be it also enacted, that within three months after such death or notice of such avoidance or incapacity of the remaining Commissioners of each respective county, of which such Commissioners who died or became incapable were or

the major part of them, shall from time to time nominate and appoint by deed under their hands and seals, to be enrolled in Chancery, some other person or persons residing within the said county of which the said Commissioners who died or became incapable were to be the Commissioners in the place and stead of him or them so dying or becoming incapable, which said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted in manner aforesaid, or any seven or more of them be, are and shall be hereby authorized and impowered from time to time to hear and determine such complaints, controversies, differences and grievances as are in this Act expressed (relating to, or concerning, or occasioned by the draining and maintaining the said Great Level) of any parish or township, or of any person or persons as well within or without the said Level, in such manner as is hereinafter expressed; and that the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted in manner aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, shall from time to time have power and authority, and are hereby required, at or before the eight and twentieth day of September which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and sixty-six, to give or make satisfaction out of the said ninety-five thousand acres to such parish or township, person or persons, whose lands or interest therein, either within or without the said Level, shall, after the first day of May one thousand six hundred sixty and three, be made worse in quality or condition by the aforesaid draining or works, than they were before the undertaking the draining of the said Level, in the sixth year of the reign of our late King Charles of blessed memory, and proportionable to the losses the owners of or persons interested in such lands shall hereafter receive, by reason of their lands being made worse in quality or condition by any such works and draining as aforesaid, and shall also have power, at

Seven or more  
to hear complaints,

as is herein expressed.

Before September 1666,  
to give satisfaction for  
lands or interest, made  
worse since  
May 1663,  
than in 6 Car.

Quality or  
condition.



Restore proportions set out contrary to St. Ives law.

St. Ives.

Alterations by commissioners excepted.

To set out other proportions where any alterations.

any time within four years from the four and twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, to alter, change and restore such parts and parcels of the said ninety-five thousand acres, as shall upon complaint be found and adjudged by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, to be unequally, unduly, or inconveniently set forth, by reason of any allotting either of greater quantities, or as belonging to other counties, parishes or manors, or in more inconvenient places than they were formerly allotted and set out by a Law of Sewers made at St. Ives the twelfth day of October in the thirteenth year of the reign of King Charles the First, notwithstanding any vesting of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof in the King's Majesty, or in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or in any other persons before mentioned, or any estates executed by them or any of them.

Provided, and be it enacted, That ninety-three acres in Ravely and Upwood, seventy-six acres in Sothery, forty-four acres and one rood in Wicken, eighty-eight acres in Cow-fenn, two hundred eighty-two acres in Beezling, and thirty-seven acres in Upwell, set out to be enjoyed as part of the said ninety-five thousand acres since the making of the said law of St. Ives, in lieu of like proportions altered and restored to the country, shall be held and enjoyed by the said Corporation; subject nevertheless to the trust in and by this Act declared, as to the said eighty-three thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres; and shall set forth to the said Corporation, in trust for the participants or adventurers, whose proportion shall be so altered or exchanged in lieu of such part as shall be also altered, exchanged or restored, such other proportions in such other places within the said Level, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall seem just and

reasonable, according to the proportions and places which ought and might have been by Lynn and St. Ives Law aforesaid to be held and enjoyed of the manor of East Greenwich, to the end there may be no diminution of the said ninety-five thousand acres; and where it shall appear, upon complaint of the said Corporation before the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, that any of the proportions of the said ninety-five thousand acres heretofore set forth to Francis Earl of Bedford, his then participants and assigns, do fall short in the quantity of acres for which the same were set forth and allotted, according to the said Laws of Lynn and St. Ives, the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them shall, within the said term of four years aforesaid, appoint the same to be supplied and made up out of the grounds where the same was so allotted to be set forth, to make up the said proportion of ninety-five thousand acres. And in case the said Earl of Bedford, and his participants, or the said Corporation, shall through or by reason of their undertaking or draining aforesaid, in the sixth year of his late Majesty's reign of ever blessed memory, have done or hereafter shall do any act or acts, to the prejudice of navigation, and whereby navigation in the said rivers of Ouse and Grant, and all other rivers now navigable, passing through the said Level, and the River of West-water, being a branch of the River of Ouse, if it be consistent with the draining, or in any of them, or such drove-ways or bridges within and without the said Level, as have been made or caused to be made by the adventurers, and have been by them maintained, unless there be some agreement to the contrary, be or hereafter shall be interrupted, obstructed and made worse, that then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, whereof the Vice Chancellor for the University of Cambridge, the Mayor of the town of Cambridge, and the Mayor of the town of King's Lynn, for the time

Navigation if  
made worse, 6  
Car.

Drove-ways or  
bridges, if ob-  
structed, inter-  
rupted, or made  
worse.



Commissioners may decree to be amended, at the charges of the corporation.

Upon refusal, to tax the 95000 acres, for preserving of navigation, as 6 Car.

Upon refusal to pay, may distrain upon any part of the 95000 acres.

being, to be three, if they upon notice left at their respective habitations shall think fit to be present, from time to time, shall and may decree the same to be made good and amended, at the proper costs and charges of the said Corporation, within a convenient time as to their judgments shall seem meet: And in case it shall happen and so fall out, that the said Corporation shall neglect or refuse to repair and make good the same, according to the order and decree of the said Commissioners, and within the time limited by them, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, by warrant under their hands and seals attested, to tax the said ninety-five thousand acres in such sum and sums of money as in their judgments shall seem meet, for the making, preserving and keeping the navigation in any of the aforesaid rivers, as the same was in the said sixth year of the said King Charles the First; which said sum or sums of money, so to be assessed or taxed by the Commissioners aforesaid, shall, within twenty days next after notice thereof given to the Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, be paid unto such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall nominate and appoint to receive the same. And in case the said Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, after notice so given as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay the said sum or sums as aforesaid, that then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall have full power and authority to empower the said person or persons to levy the said sum or sums of money by distress or distresses to be taken upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, and to make sale of the said distress or distresses so taken, and sell the same, and render the overplus unto the said Governor or Treasurer, deducting the reasonable charges for their labour and pains therein: All which said sum or sums of money so to be taxed and levied by the autho-

rity aforesaid, shall be expended and laid out in preserving and keeping the said navigation as aforesaid, and maintaining the same according to the true intent and meaning of this statute, and not otherwise. And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are also hereby impowered and authorized, within the space of four years from the four and twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, to ascertain and divide the precincts and boundaries of such parts of the said respective counties, lordships, manors and parishes within the said Level, as have been by and since the undertaking defaced and made obscure, or by some other means remain uncertain and hard to be found out, and shall set down such bounds and divisions in writing, by such marks, boundaries and descriptions as to them shall seem meet, and shall certify the same under their hands and seals in the High Court of Chancery, according to which division of the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, the extent of the said respective counties, lordships, manors, and parishes in such places so bounded and divided, shall for ever after the said certificate be deemed to be and none other: And in case the quantity of eight thousand acres lying together, or near together, or any greater quantity of ground lying together, or near together, within the said Level, shall become drowned, and so continue for the space of twelve months together, that then it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them, from time to time and at all times, to assess taxes or sums of money upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, for the raising money for draining the same again, in such proportion as they, or any seven or more of them, shall think fit, together with a penalty for not paying the said taxes, the said penalty not exceeding a third part of such tax.

XXVII. And for default of payment of the said taxes

Money to be laid out to preserve navigation.

To ascertain bounds of counties, &c.

Certify into the Chancery.

If 8000 acres drowned twelve months.

Commissioners may lay taxes upon the 95000 acres.

Sequester for non-payment.



or sums of money and penalties, be it enacted, That the lot and share of such participant or adventurer of and within the said ninety-five thousand acres, as shall be in arrear for the said tax, sum of money, or penalty, and unpaid by space of two months next after the day appointed for payment by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, or so much thereof as they shall think fit, shall be sequestered by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, for or towards the payment of such tax, sum of money, or penalty so in arrear, restoring the overplus of the money, for which such lot or share or any part thereof shall be sequestered, if any be; which sequestration shall be made in writing under the hands and seals of the said Commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them.

For particular  
adventurers  
distrained.

XXVIII. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case the said governor, bailiffs and corporation constituted by this Act, shall neglect or refuse to pay such tax or taxes and penalties, sum or sums of money, as shall from time to time hereafter be taxed and imposed by the said Commissioners before named or to be named by virtue of this Act, or any seven or more of them, pursuant to the powers given them by this Act; whereupon the goods and chattels of any person or persons, his or their tenant or tenants, of and in the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, shall be distrained or sold, or his or their lands sequestered for the payment thereof, or that such person or persons, his or their tenant or tenants, shall thereupon pay the said tax or taxes and penalties so assessed and imposed as aforesaid, that then the said governor, bailiffs and corporation, immediately from and after notice to him or them given thereof, shall assess and tax the whole ninety-five thousand acres, for the satisfaction and payment of the tax, taxes and penalties, sum and sums of money, and all damages, that such person or persons,

his or their tenant or tenants, hath or have paid, borne or sustained as aforesaid.

XXIX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if the said governor, bailiffs and corporation shall not, within six months next after demand made by such person or persons, his and their heirs, executors and administrators, whose own, or tenant or tenants goods and chattels shall be distrained or sold, or lands sequestered as aforesaid, pay and satisfy unto him or them, such sum and sums of money, and damages, as he or they, or his and their respective tenant or tenants have respectively paid, borne and sustained, that then and from thenceforth such person and persons, his and their heirs and assigns, shall and may bring his and their action or actions of debt in any of the King's Majesty's Courts at Westminster, against the said governor, bailiffs and corporation, for the recovery thereof, and by virtue of this Act shall recover the same, and be allowed costs of suit expended therein.

For default of payment, action of debt against the corporation.

XXX. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners so constituted or to be hereafter constituted as aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, for the better execution of the powers hereby given, shall and may inform themselves by examining witnesses upon oath, which hereby they, or any seven or more of them, shall have power to administer due execution of all, every or any of the powers or authorities hereby given them, and for the doing justice therein accordingly.

Commissioners may swear witnesses.

XXXI. Provided always, that the said Commissioners and every of them, before he or they take upon him or them the execution of any of the powers or authorities hereby given them, other than the administering the oath following to one another, which they shall have authority by this present Act to administer to one another, shall take the oath following (*viz.*)

No commissioners to act till sworn.



I *A. B.* shall and will, without favour or affection, hatred or malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, execute and perform all and every the powers and authorities established by this Act of Parliament.

Which oath any one of the said Commissioners are hereby authorized to administer.

Commissioners  
judgment to be  
final.

XXXII. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all judgments, orders, decrees, determinations, alterations, changes, restorations, and other acts done by the said Commissioners hereby constituted or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or of any seven or more of them respectively, pursuant to the powers and authorities by this Act given, shall be final; and that the first time and place of their meeting shall be at or before the two and twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, at Ely.

Places of com-  
missioners  
meeting.

XXXIII. And that afterwards the usual places where the said Commissioners shall sit to hear, order and determine the matters to them referred by this Act, shall, from the nine and twentieth day of September to the six and twentieth day of March in every year, be at the town of Huntingdon; and, from the five and twentieth day of March till the thirtieth day of September in every year, be at Ely, unless the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, shall appoint some other place or places, being a market town or towns; and the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall, by warrant under their hands and seals, declare the places and times of their after-meeting, which warrant shall be published in the open market of such respective places where they last sat, between the hours of twelve and two, upon some market day, one month at the least before the

Publish their  
meeting a  
month before.

said time or times of meeting; to the end all persons concerned may have sufficient time and notice to make their appearance before them upon any cause of complaint, or other occasion; and shall have power and authority, by warrant under the hands and seals of any seven or more of them, to summon parties and witnesses to appear before them.

XXXIV. Provided, That none of the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, shall vote or give his judgment or determination in any matter or thing which concerns the division or bounds of the county, of or for which he is appointed Commissioner.

Commissioners  
not to vote in  
bounds of their  
counties.

XXXV. Provided also, That no person who hath any part, share or interest in possession, or reversion of or in any manors or lands within the said Level, shall be a Commissioner.

XXXVI. And in case of descent, gift, devise or purchase of any such part, share or interest to or by any of the said Commissioners, it is hereby declared and enacted, That immediately after such descent, gift, devise or purchase to or by any such Commissioner, the said descent, gift, devise or purchase shall be an avoidance of his being a Commissioner; and shall make him be incapable of being again nominated or appointed a Commissioner, whilst his interest doth remain.

XXXVII. Provided also, and the said Commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them, shall from time to time and at all times have power and authority to give and make satisfaction, out of the ninety-five thousand acres, to such person or persons whose lands or interest therein (by any new works hereafter to be made by the said Corporation without the said Level, for conveying of the waters of the said Level by convenient outfalls to the sea) shall be made worse in quality, condition or value, than they were before the said undertak-

Make satisfaction  
for lands  
pejorated by  
new works.



ing in the said sixth year of the said late King Charles, proportionable to the loss and damage the parties shall receive thereby.

Owners of  
wastes may  
improve.

XXXVIII. And to the end that the owners of the commons and wastes in the said Level, and other towns, parishes and places unto which the works aforesaid or any of them do extend, may improve the same by making divisions and inclosures; be it provided and enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, body politick or corporate whatsoever, their heirs and successors, that are or shall be lords of manors, or have or shall have right of common in the said wastes, to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such proportion or proportions as to them shall or may severally or respectively belong or appertain, or be adjudged and allotted out of the said commons and wastes within the said Level, or within any town, parish or place into which the works aforesaid or any of them do extend; and to hold such proportion in severalty at all times of the year; and all differences that shall arise concerning the boundaries of the wastes. rights of common, approvments, allotments, divisions and inclosures, shall from time to time and at all times be determined, adjudged and finally ended by the said Commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them, upon their view, or examination of witnesses upon oath, which they are hereby authorized to administer, or upon both, and hearing of the parties concerned, by their adjudication under their hands and seals in writings, which determination and judgment being certified into the petty bag, there to be filed and kept on record, shall be final and conclusive unto all parties: and the allotments, divisions and proportions so adjudged or decreed to be held by the said respective persons to whom they are so set out, shall be held by him or them, and his and their heirs, executors and assigns respec-

View or examination of  
witnesses,

to be certified  
into the petty  
bag.

tively, according to his or their tenure or tenures, estate, title or interest they had in the manors, tenements and lands for which they claimed the said proportions of common as aforesaid ; paying such fines and rents, and doing such services in proportion for the same, as by custom or otherways they are to pay or do, and do for the manors, tenements and lands for which they claim the same proportion, having such respect to the yearly values of the one and the other, as shall (if need so require) be limited by seven or more of the Commissioners.

Tenures as  
formerly.

Pay rents, &c.

XXXIX. Provided also, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for such person and persons (as were heretofore owners of the one hundred seventy-five acres in Sutton, North and South Meadland in the said Isle of Ely, set out by the said Law of St. Ives, as a recompence for draining the whole north and south Meadlands, containing about one thousand acres) their heirs or assigns, to sue and implead before the said Commissioners or any seven or more of them, the owners and occupiers of the said north and south Meadlands, or elsewhere within the said Great Level, to draw them into contribution for their several and respective proportions of the said north and south Meadlands towards the said one hundred seventy-five acres : and the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall thereupon adjudge and decree unto the said owners of the said one hundred seventy-five acres, or such of them as they shall think fit, and to their heirs and assigns, such recompence and satisfaction, either in ready money, yearly rent or land, out of the residue of the said north and south Meadlands, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them shall seem meet, to be held and enjoyed by the said owners of the said one hundred seventy-five acres, their heirs and assigns.

Sutton Mead-  
lands.

XL. Provided always, and be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for Sir John Watts, Knight.

Londoners  
Fen.



and others who derive any interest under the drainers of that Fen called Londoners Fen, his and their heirs and assigns, to sue and implead all and every person and persons, their executors and administrators, that have taken and received the rents and profits of his or their share and proportion of Londoners Fen, remaining from the share and proportion allotted and set out by the said Law of St. Ives, since the said Level was adjudged drained, and to sue for and recover the same in any of his Majesty's Courts at Westminster; and also that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Sir John Watts, and the participants aforesaid, his and their heirs and assigns, heretofore owners of the several proportions in Londoners Fen, set out by St. Ives law for the adventurers recompence for draining the low grounds in Upwell, Outwell, and Welney, to pursue and prosecute before the said commissioners, or any seven or more of them, their claim, and sue for relief against the owners or occupiers of the fenny and low surrounded grounds lying in Upwell, Outwell, and Welney aforesaid, whose grounds did not all contribute, or not in equal proportion, to the said ninety-five thousand acres, to draw them into contribution in ease of the said Sir John Watts, and the participants aforesaid, and thereupon the said commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are hereby impowered to adjudge and decree unto the said Sir John Watts, and the participants aforesaid, his and their heirs and assigns, such proportion out of the said grounds, which have not equally contributed as aforesaid, as to the said commissioners, or any seven or more shall seem meet.

Dousedale  
Bank.

XLI. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the King's Majesty and the Queen's Majesty, their heirs, successors and assigns, to continue in the possession, usage and disposal of the bank called Dousedale Bank, being on the south side of his Majesty's demean lands called Portsand, belonging to their manor of Crowland, being part thereof, and to have

such antient passages and currents as of right have been used and accustomed for the avoidance of water through the same into the river South-Eae, as if this Act had never been made.

XLII. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for every archbishop, bishop, dean, and chapter, and all colleges and halls in either university, and all bodies politick and corporate, who are or shall be lords of manors, or have or shall have right of soil or common in the wastes within this said Level, or within such other towns, parishes and places into which the works of the draining aforesaid do or shall extend, and who are by this Act impowered to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such proportion or proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said commons and wastes within the said Level, to demise, by indenture, all and every the said such proportion or proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said commons or wastes within the said Level, which have not by express words, and under any particular rent, been at any time formerly demised for any term or number of years not exceeding one and twenty years, so as upon every such demise or lease be reserved the fourth part of the true yearly value, to be ascertained by the commissioners aforesaid, or any seven of them, due and payable yearly during the said term, to him or them, and his and their successors.

Bodies Politick to demise.

XLIII. Provided always, and be it declared by and with the consent of all parties concerned, That neither this Act, nor any thing therein contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to alter the possession of Thomas Chicheley, Esq. of or from six hundred seventy-one acres, parcel of the lot now claimed to belong to the said trustees of Henry late Earl of Arundel and Surry, and two hundred thirty-one acres, parcel of the lot now claimed to

Mr. Chicheley.

belong to the said Sir William Terringham, or from any part thereof, by him the said Thomas Chicheley now enjoyed under purchasers by sales, for non-payment of taxes upon the dispute between the old and new adventurers; but that the said corporation shall execute conveyances of the said respective proportion unto the said Thomas Chicheley, his heirs and assigns; any thing herein contained contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Rights of Lords  
for Waifes, &c.

XLIV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That all such right or rights, as any lord or lords of any manor or manors, liberties, hundred or half-hundred, have heretofore had within their respective manor or manors, liberties, hundred or half-hundred, within or without the said Level, to waifes, strays, felons goods, privileges of arrests, escheats, and all other royalties, not prejudicial to the draining, be hereby saved to them, their heirs, successors and assigns, severally and respectively; any thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Waldersea.

XLV. Provided always, That this Act, or any thing therein contained, shall not be interpreted to infringe or any way to weaken an Act made the fourth year of the reign of King James, intituled, An Act for the Draining of certain Fens and Low Grounds within the Isle of Ely, subject to Hurt by surrounding, containing about Six Thousand Acres, compassed about with certain Banks commonly called and named the Ring of Waldersea and Coldham; but the said Act shall stand in full force and virtue; any thing in this present Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Lands cut.

XLVI. Provided also, That whereas divers lands, in and near adjoining unto the said Great Level, have been cut through for the better conveying of the waters from the same and for upholding or repairing the banks and works there, without making satisfaction to the respective owners of the said lands, for the damage they have sustained by such cutting, be it further enacted, That

the said commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them, upon complaint to them made of such damage sustained as aforesaid, without recompence for the same, shall be and are hereby impowered to award and decree such recompence and satisfaction to the party and parties grieved, according to their respective damages sustained by such cutting, as to the said commissioners for the time being, or any seven or more of them, shall be adjudged reasonable, the said recompence and satisfaction to be made and given by the said corporation within six months next after such award or decree made; and in default thereof the said commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall and may and are hereby impowered to rate and tax the said ninety and five thousand acres, and to distrain thereupon for the payment of such rate or tax, and the distress taken thereupon to sell or dispose as they shall think fit, (rendering the overplus, if any be, to the owner) for the payment and satisfaction of such monies and damages as shall be so awarded; any thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

To distrain.

XLVII. Provided nevertheless, That in case the judicature hereby established shall not, within twelve months from the first day of August next, hear and determine all the matters by this Act to them referred concerning the said ninety-five thousand acres, all and every such person and persons whose complaints shall be then undetermined, may make their applications to the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, who are hereby established a court of judicature, and sufficiently authorized to hear and determine all such controversies and differences between the said parties in as large and ample manner, to all intents and purposes, as the judicature hereby established might have done, and such judgment, order or decree of the said Court of Exchequer shall be in all things observed, and be effectual as if the said barons had been made the only judicature by this Act.

Barons of the  
Exchequer.



Lessees of the  
10000 acres,  
capable of elec-  
tions.

XLVIII. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the lessees of the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors of the said ten thousand acres, or of any part thereof, and the assigns of such lessees, and every or any of them, shall be capable to be elected and chosen into the office or place, offices or places of governor, bailiffs and conservators aforesaid, and to vote in such elections and choice, and in all other matters, as fully to all intents and purposes as any other members of the corporation, owners of any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, may be elected and chosen, vote in such election and choice, or in any other matter, so as such lessees and their assignees respectively have and be lessees or owners of double the quantity or number of acres, parcel of the said ten thousand acres, as by virtue of this Act is required to qualify any person to be elected and chosen into the office or place of governor, bailiff or conservator respectively, and to vote in such elections and choice, or in any other matter touching the said Level, and so as such leases or assignments they claim by be entered with the register; any thing before in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Offley may  
sue.

XLIX. Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this Act shall not extend to impeach or make void any obligation given to David Offley, gentleman, conditioned for his quiet enjoyment of a certain parcel of land purchased by him in the said Level, but that the said David Offley may sue and prosecute his several action or actions upon the said obligation, as if he had been evicted or removed from his estate therein by due course of law.

Corporation  
not to be  
charged for  
breaches,

L. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any breaches happen in any of the banks, sasses, sluices, tunnels or other works within the said Great Level, or in any the works made without the said Great Level, for carrying the waters of the said Great Level to their outfall at sea, by reason of some inevitable

accidents, the same shall be repaired and made good in convenient time, by and at the charges of the said corporation and their successors; but no other charge shall be laid upon the said corporation or their successors, for or in respect of such breaches, nor for or in respect of any breaches that have happened heretofore in any of the said banks, sasses, sluices, or other works; nor shall the said corporation be enforced to give to any other person any recompence for any loss or damage which hath or shall happen, by reason of their making necessary and sufficient banks for the defending of the said Level from being overflowed, and for the leading of the waters of the said Level in their channels as now they run unto their outfall at sea.

nor for making  
banks.

LI. Provided nevertheless, and be it enacted, That where any participant under Francis Earl of Bedford, or the heirs or assigns of any such participant, hath exchanged his or their share or lot of the said ninety-five thousand acres, or any part thereof, for any other lands, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, which were claimed and held under such pretended sales for non-payment of taxes since one thousand six hundred forty and nine, it shall and may be lawful to and for such participant and participants, and his and their heirs and assigns, to enter again upon the same lands so given in exchange, and to have and retain the same in his and their possession; any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding: subject nevertheless in all things to such judgment and determination as the judicature hereby constituted shall make concerning the same.

Exchanges.

LII. Provided always, That no ascertaining or dividing of the said drained or new improved lands by the said commissioners as aforesaid, shall conclude the King's Majesty, his heirs, successors or assigns, or any other person or persons, as to the bounds of parishes, to any other intent or purpose than subjecting the same to taxes and contributions, and episcopal jurisdictions, and not as to

Divisions only  
to subject the  
bounds to ec-  
clesiastical ju-  
risdiction.

Disturbers of  
inclosures for-  
feit 20*l.* &c.

the right of tithes or any other purpose whatsoever, nor shall be, or be used in evidence concerning the same.

LIII. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons having right of common in any of the manors, wastes, commons or lands within the said Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, or any other person or persons whatsoever, at any time after such division or inclosure made or set out as aforesaid, shall break, throw down, disturb, obstruct, or by any means hinder or lay open the said improvements and inclosures, at, in or after the making thereof, or the hedges, ditches or fences of the same, or any part thereof shall destroy, and shall be thereof convicted by two credible witnesses upon oath before two justices of the peace of the county where such disturbance or destruction shall be made, every such person or persons so convicted as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such offence the sum of twenty pounds, to be levied by distress upon the goods and chattels of every such offender or offenders, by warrant under the hands and seals of the said justices of the peace before whom such conviction shall be made, the one moiety to the informer, and the other moiety to such person or persons against whom the said offence is or shall be committed; or for want of such sufficient distress, the offender shall be committed to the House of Correction, or common gaol, for three months, without bail or mainprize, at the said justices discretion.

After August  
1668, not to  
be taxed above  
2*s.* per acre for  
one year.

LIV. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That from and after the first day of August, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, no tax or taxes exceeding two shillings the acre in any one year shall be assessed, laid or levied upon the said ten thousand acres by this Act vested in the King's Majesty, his heirs, successors and assigns, or upon any part thereof,

or upon the two thousand acres hereby vested in the assigns of the said Earl of Portland; but in case the taxes to be assessed upon the said eighty-three thousand acres hereby vested in the said corporation, shall not amount unto so much in proportion as two shillings an acre, according to the proportion for each acre; then a proportionable abatement shall be made out of the said two shillings *per* acre, which shall be charged yearly by an equal rate upon every acre of the said ten thousand acres, and the said two thousand acres according to the rate imposed upon every acre of the said eighty-three thousand acres, whether the same shall be assessed by an acre-tax or a pound-rate, or by any other way; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Earl of Portland's 2000 acres.

Rated per acre.

LV. And it is further declared, that the assessing, laying, and levying of taxes upon the said ten thousand acres, or upon the said two thousand acres, or any part thereof, after the said first day of August which shall be in the said year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, by the way of an acre-tax, shall not extend nor be interpreted or construed to extend to compel or conclude the said corporation to assess, lay or levy any tax or taxes upon the said eighty-three thousand acres hereby vested in the said corporation, or upon any part thereof, by the way of an acre-tax.

Not to conclude on the tax.





## No. XX.

1665.

## MR. DODSON'S DESIGN,

WITH

## ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS.

The Design, for the perfect draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level.—Dedicated to William Earl of Bedford.

*Delivered to the Corporation of Bedford Level by Colonel William Dodson, A. D. 1664.*

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It is not to be expected this whole following discourse to be all new, since the necessity of making it to appear rational, compells me to a recital of many things as well known unto others as my self; and so to usher your judgements to approve of it as reasonable, (which the whole Level as an intire argument doth perswade) I shall extract no other cure for her present distemper, then what nature her self hath appointed for a remedy.

And, in the first place to acquaint you with the circumference and quantity of ground I am to treat of; and likewise to acquaint you with the soyl, or earth we are to work upon, and then the several rivers and rivulets which fall into, and run through this great Level, and how the unruly tides do beat back our freshes into our bosoms, when they are poasting to the embraces of their mother the Sea.

I shall not divide this great Level into piece-meals, but as my industry, and thirty years experience and more hath

taught me, I shall give you the descent of each part of it, as it is naturally inclining to the sea, as also those rivers which nature hath appointed to conduct the supernumerary waters to it; and then I shall lay down the rules, and way for for the perfect draining of this great Level, and at a small charge, and to take off all hazzards of being drowned for the future, and also the vaste expences of yearly repairs, whereby will easily appear the great advantage which will accrew to his sacred Majesty, the honourable corporation, and to the whole countrey, resolving as much brevity as the weightiness of so important an affair may permit.

The circumference beginning at Saltors Load in Norfolk, and so by the hard lands of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Huntingtongshire, Northamptonshire, and Lincolnshire to Croyland, and so to South Ea Bank, to their drain to Tidgoat, from thence to Wisbidge, so to Well, and to Saltors Load again; which circumference contains at the least 120 miles, within which lieth at the least 400000 acres of good land, if once perfectly drained.

The circumference of the Level.

The soyl or earth is generally a black or red Moor, the black Moor is naturally a rich soyle, the red is not so strong; but both the red and black being laid dry, becomes a perfect black mould, and good soyle: witness Thorney Fenns, and all others which have lien dry for some years past. The soyl is good and profitable, and lyes in most part of the fens a foot deep, and in some places more, though nature and art have taken their way through the worst of our fens, I mean the two rivers of Morton's Leame, and Bedford River, (the last made by the Right Honourable Francis Earle of Bedford, and the first by that reverend and learned Prelate Bishop Morton, were the two most famous works as ever were made in this great Level, as useful to the draining of it; but the banks being made of this light Moor, (which could not possibly be avoided) which now being rotten with long lying

The nature of the soyl or earth.

Morton's Leam and Bedford River.

The light Moor not good for banking.

dry, hath lost its tuffness, and is become a light black mould, and yields to those waters lying on the banks, and makes the banks meer water, by which means they have lost their former strength to withstand a reasonable flood.

The River Welland excepted in this design.

To and through this great Level runneth certain rivers and rivulets, I exclude the River Welland, as not to meddle with it in this design; and those which I call rivers, (which we have to deal withall) are New Nean, alias, Morton's Leame, Bedford River, and great Owse: the River Nean is very considerable, it runs out of Northamptonshire, and brings many rivers and rivulets which fall into it; and with reason we may believe Northamptonshire to be the highest county in all England, there being no river which runs into it, but many which run out of it east, west, north, and south.

Bedford River.

Bedford River is equal with Nean, and brings with it all those rivers and brooks out of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Old Owse.

Old Owse I call it a considerable river for those of Grant, Milnall, Brandon, and Stoke makes Owse (before it meet with Bedford River) at Saltors Load, a great, and considerable river.

South Ea, Whittlesey Dike March River, Bevils leam, &c. useful in draining.

As for South Ea, Peakirk Drain, Bevils Leam, Whittlesey Dike, Swards Delft, Elm Leam, March River, Ox-willow Load, Sandy Dike, Downham Load, Dr. William's Load, Reach Load, Fordhorm Load, and Samms Cut, with many other small Creeks, which are no way prejudicial to our work, but much to our benefit, and ease, and will be much for our use.

The descent of Burrough and Thorney Fen, &c.

As for the several descents in this Level, you shall finde them thus, from the height of Burrough Fens, and Thorney Fens, and from Bull Dike, and Catt water; the descent lies to the lowest part of Thorney Fens by Clows Cross, and Murrow Plash.

The descent of Stanground, Whittlesey

All those fens and grounds from Stanground, Whittlesey Mare, Ug Mare, and Ramsey Mare, Kings Delft,

West Fen, all those grounds or fens of Ramsey, Pedley, Doddington, Chatris, and March; all those grounds lye descending to the River of March, and the West Water.

Mare, Ug Marr, Ramsey, &c.

All those grounds and fens which lye East of the West Water to the North Bank of Bedford River, have their descent inclining to Well River, and Welney to the Po Dike.

The descent of the grounds on the east of the West Water to the North Bank of Bedford river.

All those fens and grounds lying south-east of Bedford River, have still their descent eastward to Littleport, and to Priest-houses, and so into great Owse.

The descent of the grounds south-east of Bedford river.

Yet though it be true (as it is) that all those lands and fens from Morton's Leam to the River Owse, have their descent still eastward, yet is as true, it is not above half a foot in a mile, and that is no considerable draught to convey our downfall to our two rivers of Great Owse and Morton's Leam, which upon necessity must drain the countrey; but if Morton's Leam and Great Owse cannot be brought to run so low as to gain a draught into them, we cannot be perfectly drained: but this without all doubt may be effected.

Those fens and grounds which lye on the east side of Great Owse in Norfolk and Suffolk, with Soham Fens, Swaffam Fens, Ditton, Burwell Fens, Iselam, Milnall, Whelps Moor, and the Fens of Feltwell, have their descent west to the river Owse, but is little or nothing. Yet there is no doubt but to gain these rivers two foot fall into the river Owse, and that Soham Meer shall never come within four foot of its former height in ordinary floods.

The descent of the fens on the east side of Great Owse.

For besides the Sock, and down-fall into this Level, we have three considerable rivers which runs through it into the sea. Morton's Leame, whose way is through Wisbidge, and so into the washes, and Bedford River, and Great Owse, which joyn together at Saltors Load, and run intire to Lynne, and fall into the sea below the washes. There hath been great industry, and much

Three considerable rivers run through the Level.



The design of  
former under-  
takers.

The tyde a  
great enemy.

Want of freshes  
a great enemy.

The light fuzzy  
moor to make  
banks withal,  
another enemy.

Reasons why  
the tyde is an  
enemy to  
draining.

money expended in making of great and vaste banks to keep those rivers within their bounds, and to carry our freshes to run at that height as to ride the tydes; and this hath been the design of all the undertakers since Lyn Law was first made: but if ever they had found the descent (which they hoped for) the tyde (their greatest enemy) could not then have possibly prevailed to flow into the very center of this great Level every twelve hours, though the late made new rivers do run high by reason of the imbanking and the flux of the tyde.

One other enemy (though not so dangerous) to this great Level, is, the want of freshes in the summer to water the grounds and cattle, and to scour the out-falls. And the other enemy is the fuzzy light moor to make banks withal, which moorish earth hath deceived all the worthy undertakers from the beginning, and therefore is not to be trusted any more.

Neither is it without reason, that those three I last named are such obstacles to the perfecting of this great work of draining this Level. For if we consider the floods which fall down into this great Level, intending for the sea, which for want of descent cannot run quick, and the tyde every twelve hours meets our freshes, and beats them back; the tyde by reason of his great ascent at sea, flowes quick into the very bowels of our fens, so far as above Welney upon Bedford River, which is no less then eight and twenty miles from the sea: and likewise it flowes above Guy-heirne in Morton's Leame into the midst of our fens; and it must be confessed the tyde flowes into us three hours and an half, and we allow four hours for the same quantity of water to ebb back again, so that at the most we have but four hours and an half in twelve hours, to run out our freshes which drown us.

Thus the floods increase in our rivers between the banks, and riseth, and lieth on them at a great height, and as I have said, these moory banks will deceive all

that trust in them : it is confessed that the moor earth is tuff so long as it lies wet, but is good no longer then till it is rotten, and that it will be if it lie dry four or five summers, and then it sinks, and becomes a light black mould; and if it chance that a flood lie upon it but three or four days, it soaks in the water and becomes sobbed, and is neither earth nor water, and then it leaves you when you have most need of it, and drowns the fens more, then if there were no banks at all.

Reasons  
against the  
banking with  
light moor.

The third enemy is the want of freshes in the summer, which doth not onely make the countrey, and the cattle miserable, but the out-falls will be destroyed for want of water to scour them in dry summers : nor would I have the late dripping summers be an encouragement, that the out-falls are so good that there is no cause to fear them, (may they alwayes continue good I wish) but if the out-falls once fail, it will be a greater inconvenience then the breaking of a bank onely, my fear hereof is just enough; in a dry summer you have none, or very few freshes, either by the river Morton's Leame, or Great Owse, and ye are sure to be visited with the tyde every twelve hours; and then I may tell you, if you have northerly windes, you will have such foul waters from the sea, that quickly will lodge up your out-fall at Wisbidge, and Lyn, by reason your rivers in those places are wider then they ought to be, (which may be helped by this my Design) so that the flux and re-flux of the sea, doth not grinde but feed.

Reasons why  
the want of  
freshes is a  
great enemy to  
draining.

The river Owse, which hath its out-fall at Lynne, is for some miles at sea below that town much obstructed by several shelves of sands, which are moveable as the winde and sea forces them; and yet the winter chennels are kept by the winter floods; but in summer our want of freshes or floods make us not able to maintain our winter chennel, and so we lose it till our first floods in November (or thereabouts) can gain their own chennel

The river Owse  
much obstruct-  
ed with shelves  
of sand below  
Lyn.

again; in the mean time all our banks and works are in great danger, and the poor countrey-man in hazzard of utter ruine, and the navigation of Lynne very uncertain and dangerous; the same hazzards in all respects are in the river of Wisbidge through the washes to the sea.

And now to prevent these dangers, and to make our Fens and Level secure, without trusting to the hazzard of our out-falls without us, or the breaking, or the sinking of the banks within us; the taking away all those great charges of maintaining and repairing all those banks made to hold up our inland-floods, at such a vast height as to rid the spring tides (as I have said before) I dare be bold to say, that twenty years hence for want of earth at a reasonable distance, the banks will cost more in one year than now they do in four; I wish the charge of those fen lands may not exceed the profit, as some of them have already done, and much good land without the level in likelihood to come into the same condition if not prevented.

Murrow-gate  
cut to the  
Horseshoe at  
Wisbidge.

When I was Director, I would have cut through Murrow-gate to the Horseshoe at Wisbidge, which would have cost less then the widening of that river, and there to have fallen into Wisbidge river close to the apron of that gallant sleuce then standing; and so far I had (as I did then believe) obtained the adventurers to consent unto, and they at a general meeting at Wisbidge, 1649, did make a personal view of the place, and found what I affirmed to be truth; and this river I would have completed by reason of the great benefit it would have been to all the north-side of Wisbidge, and other parts adjacent, to drain them, and a certain slaker in all floods to ease Morton's Leam and all the banks upon it upon all occasions.

The River Owse  
and Morton's  
Leam made to  
run quick below  
Downham and  
Wisbidge.

Then take the river Owse, and all the branches which fall into it before it come to Downham-bridge, and likewise cast your eye upon the river called Morton's Leam

as it runs at the Horseshoe below Wisbidge, to meet there with my new river that is to be made through Murrow-gate; and this is the first part of my design, to bring all our floods and freshes to run quick below Downham and Wisbidge.

In the next place, to give more particular satisfaction, I question not but all rational men will grant, and allow, that if by this design, those two considerable rivers of Great Ouse, and Morton's Leam, can be brought to run all the year, and every hour of the year, in two great rivers at Downham-bridge, and Wisbidge-bridge, notwithstanding the spring tides or the ebb tides; they must needs confess that they then believe they shall be perfectly drained, yet they cannot believe this can be done, but that the tide must be stopped; and it is true, and good reason for it; which as I said before, flows into us every twelve hours into the midst of our fens, and flows no less then three hours and an half, or four, and then four hours to ebb back again, so shall we have not above four hours in twelve for our freshes to run out of the Level.

The tide stopped.

But it is intended, and will be made good by this my design, the freshes shall run quick all the year, and every hour of the year, at Downham-bridge, and Wisbidge, if they may have leave by a sluice below them some miles distant; and though I name this last, yet it is the first thing to be perfected, that is by a substantial large sluice made at German-bridge, or Magdalen in Norfolk; and near unto it one soss to maintain navigation, from Lynne to Cambridge, Wisbidge, and to all other places formerly used into the adjacent countreys: and this being once

The great sluice to be at German-bridge, or near Magdalen in Norfolk.\*

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\* See London Order Book, B. fo. 31—1664.—When from high water mark the river was 36 feet deep, and 175 broad, exclusive of the slope of the bank. *Vide* the Report of a Committee of the Board against the execution of Colonel Dodson's design.—*Ibid.*



substantially performed, the whole work of draining is in a manner perfected.

A new river to be cut through Marsland.

And as for the River of Wisbidge, and the slaker through Murrow-gate, I carry them joyntly in a river through Marsland, from the Horseshooc to the great sleuce at German-bridge, or near Magdelen, by sufficient banks of good sollid earth; then have I sufficient water way for all those freshes to the sea, which will force good navigation, and maintain the chennel winter, and summer, to the great benefit of all those seamen which use that port of Lynne; and all the rivers in and out of the Level will be much bettered, and improved.

No banks to be sleighted. A small new bank at Guy-heirne.

As for the sleighting any banks upon Bedford River, or Morton's Leam, or to make new ones, (except a small one at Guy-heirne) it is no part of my design, but I do wish those banks which are upon Bedford River and Morton's Leam, had not been placed at so great a distance one from another.

The sosses at Stanground, Erith, Well, &c. are useful. A soss and sluce at Ditton.

And as for the sosses at Stanground, Erith, Well, and others, they are of singular good use, yet I do affirm, there will be a necessity of having a soss, and sleuce near Ditton, otherwise the navigation to Cambridge is lost, by reason the waters will be so low both winter and summer in the river Owse, that the rivelets of Millnall, Brand, and Stoke, must be either held up or bottomed.

A soss and sleuce to be made at Guy-heirne.

The like it will be with Morton's Leam from Guy-heirne to Peterborough, otherwise it will not be alwayes navigable either winter or summer, unless we keep the waters in the New River through Marsland and in Wisbidge town at a great height alwayes. This sleuce, and that of Murrow Plash, commands the river through Wisbidge, and that through Murrow-gate with your New River through Marsland, by the help of the great sleuce and soss at German, that if need should require, would lay the very soles dry, insomuch that at all times you drain the north-side of Wisbidge, and parts ad-

The use of that sleuce, and of that at Murrow Plash.

North-side of

jacent, the Smee, and the great common in Marsland: neither will there be any need of raising the bank from Guy-heirne to Bevis-hall, for the security of the north-side of Wisbidge, whereof many complaints have been made; for here that great river will run low in a great flood with great swiftness.

Wisbidge  
drained with  
the Smee, and  
the great com-  
mon in Mars-  
land.

One other small work I would do, which is a cut from the river Owse near Ely, to the chair at Little-port, which will be about three miles, and this I would make fifty foot wide without banks; this is to help old Owse to take off a sudden flood, which otherwise will hang long upon Water-beach, Swaffam Fens, the Phillips, Stret-ham, and other grounds adjacent, being the shelves, and stops in the river Owse are taken away.

A small cut  
from Owse to  
Little-port  
Chair.

Croyland had alwayes navigation into Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, and all other parts of this Great Level, and from thence to Boston, Lynne, and unto the city of York, which is now obstructed. I mention this place, by reason I know it is very easie to make from this town good navigation to Stampford, to the great benefit of that town, and countrey, likewise to Boston, Lynne, and other parts; the Honourable Earle of Bedford is no small loser for want of this navigation through this town of Croyland into the river Welland, and his tenants at great charges to cart their corn and other commodities to the river Welland, and elsewhere, to the dammage of the Earle, and his tenants, I do verily believe five hundred pounds per annum. But I shall say no more to this, but I know the want of navigation makes many towns poor, and the having of it makes many towns and countreys rich; and the making of this navigation good is performed at a small and inconsiderable charge, and without any danger of drowning of Thorney Grounds (as some have alledged) but will prove beneficial to all that part of the countrey in a dry summer.

The benefit of  
navigation  
through Croy-  
land.

Great benefit to  
Thorney Lord-  
ship.



Sheir-drain not  
to be sleighted.

And as for Sheir-Drain I have no intentions of sleighting it, it is good to convey fresh waters into the countrey, and of great use and benefit unto Holland.

It may now be conjectured what my design is for the perfect draining this great Level; and lest I should be mistaken, I will farther express myself; it is to cause our waters and floods to run low and quick in our two great rivers of Owse and new Morton's Leam; for if once these two great rivers be brought to run low, the fens cannot be drowned, nor can any other river or rivelet in our fens run high.

Likewise, as for the dimentions of these new works I have named, and what water way I would make both in the new rivers, and through our new sleuces, I shall give you particularly; and in the close of this design, I shall give you my reasons, and shew you the benefit, the king, kingdom, undertakers, and the countrey will receive by this my design, and way of draining. And likewise give you my answers to divers objections that are, or may be made, either out of peevishness or ignorance, self-ends or malice, whereby to obstruct the carrying on so honourable a work, as the perfect draining this great Level.

The dimention  
of the river  
through  
Marsland.

The river through Marsland from the Horseshoe at Wisbidge to German-bridge, or near Magdalen in Norfolk, will be in length about eight miles; I make this river six foot deep to a perfect sole quite through: likewise I make it eighty foot wide, yet inclining wider toward the new sleuce, to help the draught of this river. I leave foreland to this bank to the river-ward twelve foot, the seat of this bearing bank shall be five and forty foot; I leave forelands of this my bearing bank to the land-ward eight foot; the two in-drains I make both of them eighteen foot wide, and six foot deep; by which means I gain good firm earth out of the river, and the two in-drains, to make my bearing bank twelve foot high from the superficies of the soyl, and ten foot broad on the

top of the bank, which being flagged to the river-ward must needs grow well.

As for the slaker through Murrow-gate I held it alwayes very necessary, by reason the River of Wisbidge was and is so full of short angles, and every shoulder of those short angles checks our freshes running to the sea, and that small neck of that river at Guyheirne too hard to be found by such a sea of freshes between those banks to Whittlesey, that the waters grope the way to finde that small quill to creep out at; wherefore I make from Guyheirne to Murrow-plash, which is two miles, one single bank, which is on the south-side of that bank that now is to Murrow-plash, to stand with it equal in height, and that old river to be bottomed six foot to raise that bank to the plash, and to have there a convenient sluice with sufficient water-way into our slaker in Murrow-gate; this river or slaker from Murrow-plash to the Horseshoee is about four miles and an half: I make this river fifty foot wide and six foot deep to a perfect sole throughout; I leave foreland to each bank to the river-ward ten foot, the seats of those banks to be forty foot each; the foreland from the seat of the bank to the land-ward, ten foot each; the two in-drains fifteen foot each, and six foot deep. This is all sollid good earth as Marsland, and will raise the banks to stand at eight foot high from the superficies, and ten foot broad at the top: there will be no haste of this work, till the banks above be sunk to about five foot high; and till then the north-side of Wisbidge hath no good drain.

These two rivers lead us to the new sluice at German-bridge, or near Magdelen in Norfolk; and I conceive most are at a stand in their judgments, as believing this not easily to be performed, yet tacitely do allow, that if this can be effected to be a durable work, the countrey then must needs be drained: yet for better satisfaction of those which doubt, it will not be unnecessary to take the

The slaker  
through  
Murrow-gate.

A single bank  
from Guyheirne  
to Murrow-  
plash, 2 miles.

The river from  
Murrow-plash  
to the Horse-  
shoee, four  
miles long, six  
foot deep, fifty  
foot wide.  
The dimention  
of the banks.

The new sluice  
at German-  
bridge.



judgments of able, and honest artists, and good workmen, so to understand their sense of the feasibility of this work, viz: this large sluice, and navigable soss, and to give me leave to inform them what I have known, and seen in the like works.

The soyl for the new sluice to stand upon.

The soyl, and foundation whereupon this large sluice, and soss is to be placed, is very good, being a firm and sollid clay, or gault, which is not to be found for that purpose elsewhere; and our materials are most of them by us, as brick, at Ely and Saltors Load; at Ely and Reach, lime plenty and cheap enough; good seasoned oak planks and timber in Norfolk and Suffolk; and good deal timber at Lynne, and iron, as good, and as cheap as elsewhere; and there is nothing wanting except tarras, of which we must use in this work good plenty, and this is to be had at Dort or Rotterdam much cheaper then here: at Peterborough and Ely, rough stone for our foundation and fillings.

The materials for the new sluice where to be had.

Now I have brought you to the materials, with which you are to make this sluice, and navigable soss, now follows the dimentions of them both.

The dimention of the new sluice.

The sluice I divide into four and twenty arches, each arch containing seven foot in wideness for the water-way; the sole of these arches shall lie level with the sole of Great Owse at German-bridge, or near Magdalen; the foundation under the sole of those arches shall be four foot deep; the supporters or peires between each arch, or water-way, shall be six foot thick, made of good brick, and other good stone, for that purpose; and the outwardmost bricks to be laid in tarras and lime; these arches for the water-way are made ten foot high from the sole, beside the crown of the arch, and so built, and finished above to what height and weight may be thought fitting.

The bredth of this sluice composed of four and twenty arches, from their butting upon the river Owse, to the

butting upon the new river which runs to it through Marsland, shall be forty foot, besides the apron to the river Owse, and the apron to the new river of Marsland.

To finish this sluice, there must be four and twenty double gates to sea-ward, to play with the tide when need shall serve; but these cannot play but with leave of the fall-gates, which are eight foot broad, and ten foot deep; all those fall-gates, or so many of them as shall be needful, according to the floods which are coming down, are drawn up, and then our gates to sea-ward play to run out our floods. In winter, by reason of the great floods, they may all play; and in summer droughts one may be sufficient to do the work, so uncertain are our waters, yet shut themselves at the rising of the tide, or back-water, and butt in the bottom against the soles of the several arches, and butt on the top as well as on the sides they hang on; and these gates are to be ten foot high, yet the spring tides will over-top them five or six foot, but cannot hurt us, but make us stronger. In this sluice you have water-way an hundred sixty-eight foot in breadth, and ten foot in depth; this sluice will vent more water then will ever come to overcharge it.

Your soss for navigation must be placed twenty poles below this sluice, for if it stand in it or near it, it cannot be useful at all times, by reason of the great force and stream of water at the sluice in a flood, and the cut which leads from the new river to the soss must be twenty pole before the sluice, lest that coming too near the sluice, the great draught of the river there may force down the vessels to the sluice, and there they must either break or sink.

The soss may be made as large as you please, to hold ten or twelve boats at a time, and the charge not much more then though it were made for two or three boats, seeing we shall not need to fear the loss of waters. I do wish the soss may be made large, for there is no question

What is required for the finishing this great sluice.

The placing of your new soss.

The great use of a large soss.



but navigation will increase within us, being it is so feizable to be made to Stampford in Lincolnshire, to Rockingham in Rutlandshire, and to Bedford in Bedfordshire.

As for your sluices at Ditton, at Croyland, at Murrow-plash, at Guyheirne, with that small cut which I desire may be made at Littleport Chair, these are but small works, and will cost but little money; I have given the reason for them, and the great use of them before.

The dimention  
of the several  
rivers.

One thing more I shall adde to what I have already said, the slaker through Murrow-gate is four miles and an half long, and it is fifty foot wide; Wisbidge River from Guyheirne, with the new river to German-bridge, or near Magdelen, is twelve miles long, and eighty foot wide; Great Owse from Saltors Load to the same sluice at Germans is eight miles long, and an hundred and twenty foot wide; these rivers being joyned all together make a goodly in-draught, as well as rivers, at your very out-fall, all of them bound in with gallant banks of good sollid and durable earth, as can be desired; which rivers will receive more waters from the flood, then all those receptacles upon Bedford River, and Morton's Leam, which are so farre within land, to the great danger of the countrey, and the vast expences of the undertakers; and in our greatest floods, and most sudden rains, our waters shall never rise so high within us at the great sluice at Germans, as doth the half floods at the ordinary tides without us; then I hope it will be confessed, that our fens, and the whole Level, and all those grounds mentioned, must be dry as well in winter as in the summer.

The said rivers  
to receive more  
waters then the  
receptacles  
now made

This was the  
design Anno  
1649.

This was the designe, I would have finished in the year 1649, when I was Director.

But it will be objected, that the former works I mention will cost much money; I shall answer to this, and other objections; but this first, because it concerns the adventurers which lay out the money.

If that the old and new adventurers have laid out in the draining of this great Level, these thirty years and more, five or six hundred thousand pounds, and if they believe this design and these works will perfect the work of draining, surely then they will lay out one whole years rent and an half to make all their moneys good, and free themselves from such vast expences, which will be swallowed up in the yearly repairs of those uncertain banks.

Several objections answered.

If this design, being perfected, doth take away all fears as well as future charges, and bring the Level into repute and credit, it will be worth their expences, and twenty times more.

And when this design is thoroughly understood, and the insufficiency of the moory banks, this design is to be followed, otherwise this Level must be left in a worse condition then it was found.

And lastly, since this objection is of such force that it will cost much money, I then say, if a year and an halves rent will treble my rent yearly, to what it yields at present, I must conclude myself none of the best husbands, that will not lay out so much money to such an advantage. I will now answer some other objections.

That there is as much done for the draining of this great Level as can be done, and that it is not in the invention of man to do more then what is already done.

1. Object.

This is the opinion of those which give credit to our moory banks, and understand not the descent nor ascent of this Level in general, nor do they know the descent that may be gained to the sea, but will say, if banks will not do the work, there is no more to be done; but do dishearten all men from doing or attempting any thing, lest their weakness should appear.

Answer.

Why did you then, when you were director for the work, make such great and high banks upon Morton's

2. Object.



Leam, of two and fifty foot in the seat, twelve foot high, and eight foot broad at the top?

Answer.

All this I did it is true, but those banks I did not make for sea banks, or to withstand such a sea or wash as now they have, but laid them near to avoid a winde-catch; and I told the adventurers at Wisbidge in 1649, at their meeting there, that those banks made so high by me then, would not stand above four or five foot high twenty years after their making; and I did promise them then, that (my Design being finished) the floods should never charge those banks above two foot: and it must have been so, if this Design of mine had gone on, and been perfected; neither was it possible that this two foot of a flood should have lain out of the river three neaps of a tide, if the sluice at German-Bridge be suffered to run.

3. Object.

Many wise men are of opinion, that the banks being repaired every year, the draining may be perfected.

Answer.

Wise men may think so, and the countrey men which get all the money for repairing every year will tell them so, till the charge exceed the profit; but if they look upon Deeping Fen drained with moory banks by Captain Lovel, and continued a small time rich ground, till the moory banks were rotted to a mould, then the banks failed, though there was no cost spared by the Right Honourable the Earle of Exeter, to repair or maintain them; yet it is now, and hath been these twenty years under water, and nothing to be had from it but a little fish; yet this fen doth contain thirty thousand acres of good land (if drained). Look upon Bishop Morton's works, the Lord Popham's works, Governour Peyton's works, the Honourable Francis Earle of Bedford's works, all these Honourable persons were wise men, and undoubtedly did act by a great scale of prudence in their undertakings, yet could not make their moory banks any longer durable, then till the moor became mould: these

presidents are all within our Level, and in the memory of this our age.

But if you run our freshes so low in winter, what shall we do for water for ourselves and cattle in summer? 4. Object.

Whilst you have water at Deeping-bridge, at Peterborough-bridge, Saint Ives-bridge, Cambridge-bridge, and at the bridges of Milnall, Brandon, and Stoke, undoubtedly our Level cannot want water; for under these bridges come all those waters which drown us, and under these bridges shall come those waters for us, and our cattle. Yet take notice, that the great sluice at German-bridge, or near Madelen, is able to hold up the waters, with little helps, as high as you please; then it will be confessed to be an absolute draining, when we can drown, and drain at our pleasure. Answer.

But how shall those fens in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, which lie on the east-side of Owse, be drained, for they lie the lowest of all the fens in this great Level? 5. Object.

If Great Owse run low, then all these fens you name will lie dry, for still your great sluice drains all your waters out of Owse, and Morton's Leam, if you please; but then navigation will be hindered, which is to be helped by bottoming of those rivers where there may be occasion, neither is the bottoming of a river so chargeable as banking. Answer.

Wisbidge River may run where it doth, as well as at German-bridge; to go through Marsland, the ground will cost dear, and that money may be saved. 6. Object.

To answer this I have much to say; first, Wisbidge out-fall lies high upon the washes, and then it is too near our fens to check our freshes; my drift is to keep the sea at a greater distance, that I may have our freshes at all times both night and day, to run quick under the bridges of Wisbidge and Downham, without the least check. Again, the river at German-bridge lies lower Answer.



then the river at Wisbidge-bridge, and there is more fall from Wisbidge-bridge to German-bridge at low water, then at the fall from Peterborough-bridge to Wisbidge; and our out-fall at Lynne is below the washes, and this river of Wisbidge joyned with the river Owse at the sluice, makes a gallant in-draught, and will gain Lynne a compleat channel to sea, to the great benefit of that fine town, and the town of Wisbidge. As for the charge of the ground through Marsland, I may justly answer, good and great things are not done without cost; but the cost of this will not be much, by reason we may carry much of the river through the common, viz: the great common belonging to the seven towns in Marsland, and the common called the Smee, and drain them both, which the Marsland men will thank you for.

7. Object. The river of Wisbidge is (as it is now widened) sufficient to carry in it all those waters which fall from Peterborough, and therefore you may spare your pains and cost at Murrow-gate.

Answer. Wisbidge River is wider then it was, especially at the out-fall, which doth, and will destroy us; but it is not the depth nor the width of the river that will drain that Level, it is the descent, and quick current, that must do our work: but this river is so full of small angles, to shoulder up our freshes, yet I will say, it will serve till the moory banks in the fen be sunk. But it is good to be sure in this great work, for if this river should prove defective, to receive and carry away a great flood, it is not onely the loss of having our grounds drowned, but may be the ruine of many good mans estate, to the value of ten times the charge of making the slaker through Murrow-gate, to the Horseshoee; beside, the benefit of this river, and the in-drains to drain all the north-side of Wisbidge, which is many thousand acres of good land.

8. Object. The tide being stopped at German-bridge, or near

Magdelan, will rise higher, and run over our banks, and drown us in Marsland.

This objection is easily waved, the tide hath its bounds, Answer.  
and cannot rise higher then its center at sea, and though it be stopped at German-bridge, it shall not rise higher by the thickness of one hair, as if it never had been stopped at all.

But your great sluice and soss at German-bridge, or 9. Object.  
near Maddelen, will be quickly silted up, and what will become of the fens then?

It is impossible it should, being no silt comes near it, Answer.  
nor any salt water, for which I give this reason, viz: the freshes at low water have got the channel at Lynne, there the tide comes in, and beats the freshes back; the fresh and salt water unwilling to mix, the tide beats back those freshes to its own height, that so two miles below the sluice at Germans it will not be brackish. I hope the river of Thames at Blackwall and London-bridge will give you an experiment; and if no salt water at the new sluice, and soss, it must be confessed, no silt and sand.

We have great frosts some years, and then upon a 10. Object.  
sudden thaw the ice comes down and will choak your sluice and soss.

Sosses and sluices are the means to prevent the danger Answer.  
of the ice in a sudden thaw. It is confessed, many bridges by the force and weight of the ice have been beaten down, but the use of sluices prevents that danger thus: in great and long frosts we can have no floods, and if our rivers are frozen over to make it impassable for boats, then are our sluices to run; by this means I sink the water, and the ice with them, as low as I can, then by our sluices I hold up our waters, and this water riseth one foot or two above the ice, which is frozen fast to the bottom of our rivers after a night or two lying there; and although they be not dissolved, yet they are so rotten,



brittle, and short, and cannot hurt either bridge or sluice: this I have made experience of by sluices, and can prove it; and this is practised in Holland, Freezeland, and Gronning.

11. Object.

Our division dikes, and all our dikes in our fens, though they be made twelve foot wide, and six foot deep, they keep their width, yet in our dry years the bottoms rise two foot, and our dikes become shallower, and they are no good fences.

Answer.

Observation and experience will teach you, that the bottom of your dikes grow not up, nor rise as you say, but it is your ground lying dry, the moor earth groweth sollid to a good and fruitful soyl; and it is not your dikes bottoms which rise, but your grounds which sink, and become much better; therefore when your grounds are thus sunk with lying dry, bottom then your dikes two foot, and your dikes will hold good for many years.

12. Object.

It is perceivable by your Design for the draining of this great Level, that in a flood we shall have no navigation upwards from your new sluice up Bedford River, up Owse to Cambridge, or up your New River to Wisbidge, and Peterborough, by reason the waters will run so quick that we cannot hale with our horses against the stream, but our three rivers will become like the river Rhyne for swiftness in a flood.

Answer.

It is granted, the rivers in a flood will run quick, by reason they have water-way, and fall sufficient at the great sluice; but this force of a flood will not last for above a day or two, it may be longer, and it may be not so long, therefore you must stay while the flood be past; neither are these rivers so much your enemies, as constantly to oppose you, as the river Rhyne doth: all which work against a constant stream must have patience, and so must you; yet the motions of these great vessels down the river Rhyne are quick, and so will yours be in a flood, which lasts not long, neither will they be

common with us; for the comparison will not hold between the river Rhyne and any of our rivers in our Level.

If this Design of yours be perfected, we may then lay all our boats aside, as having no use for them; for Owse, Bedford River, Morton's Leam, and the New River through Marsland, will draw in all our land waters.

It is confessed that Morton's Leam and Owse will run low, by reason that at German-bridge at low water mark, the river will be lower then the height of the Level soyl at Saltors Load, by twelve foot, and much more; and so likewise it will stand with Guyheirne, and there shall be no need of raising the banks from thence to Bevis-hall, for there is bank enough, and the river will run lower then the soyl or superficies of Wisbidge High Fen, for Wisbidge River will quickly grinde itself to its old bottom, and keep it; and it is feizable and necessary to bring part of Owse from Erith unto Wisbidge, by the West-water, through the town of March, and the other branch by Chatris, Doddington, and Wimbleton-hook, without the hazzard of drowning any part of the Level; and will water all the parts of the middle Level, even to Maney, the two Wells, and to Saltors Load, and will prove good for navigation to the undertakers, and the countrey which have quantities of grounds lying upon this West-water; and if the divisions of the intercommons be laid out, there will be a necessity that this work of the West-water be made good: this (you will say) will afford you water-way for your boats; no, ye are deceived, for without the use of means at our out-falls into Bedford River, Owse, and Morton's Leam, to hold up your in-drains, you will still have no waters for your boats, and this will cost money; which to do, I compare it to paper and packthred, in comparison of the rich commodity bound up in it.

We have now two gallant in-draughts, as Bedford River, and Morton's Leam, for our floods to bed in, as

13. Object.

Answer.

This is of great use to the corporation and the country, for navigation, and watering the Middle Level.

14. Object.



receptacles ; and after the flood is spent, those run and scour the out-falls, and maintain them.

Answer.

I know not what you mean by an in-draught, but if you believe either of those rivers to be your in-draughts, in which your waters now bed, whose banks are at such a wide distance, and at so great a distance from your out-fall, as near twenty or thirty miles, it is a riddle to me, and beyond my understanding, and in my judgment against all the rules of draining ; for in all draining we have respect to our out-fall, for if we cannot be master there, all other endeavours signifie nothing. You may

The receptacles  
between the  
banks no in-  
draughts.

as well call Whittlesey Mare, Ramsey Mare, Soham Mare, in-draughts ; and the Dutch may better call Harlem Mare an in-draught, for none of those I have named are in-draughts ; for there can be no in-draught, but it

The proper  
place of the in-  
draught.

must be close to the out-fall, otherwise it works no effect. You have an example in Holland, and in all the low countreys, their in-draughts are at their sluices close to the neck of their outfalls ; neither is there any haven, river, or creek, lying upon foul seas, that hath not sufficient freshes to maintain its out-fall, but he must by art gain an in-draught, which in-draught must be at hand to use when there is occasion for it ; for all true in-draughts are to be held up, and are to be made use of at the last quarter ebb, or before, and so it works its effect ; but when the in-draught is about a mile or two above its out-fall, it is so weak upon its stream by that time it comes to its out-fall, that it cannot work any effect to the cleansing of either haven, river, or creek.

The reason  
wherefore.

Dunkirk and  
Delfts Haven.

I shall onely instance in two havens or harbors, though I could trouble you with many ; the one is Dunkirk in Flanders, the other is Delfts Haven in Holland : as for that of Dunkirk I have seen it when upon the wharf they have been forced to use a ladder to go up into a ship of an hundred tun at low water, the next day they have been forced to use the same ladder down from of the

wharf into the same ship; this might seem strange, but it was strange to me to see by what a small means this effect was wrought, which was thus: viz. in all dry summers the haven is very subject to be silted up by the sea bearing its foul waters into it, by reason of the many shelves of sand upon that coast, so that the ordinary strength of that small river coming from Bergue, is not able to carry out of that haven what the sea lodgeth in it, but then reason and industry doth the work of that haven thus: when the haven is silted up to such a height, the town causes the river aforesaid to be kept up by their sluice, or soss, for some eight or ten dayes together, then they command the ships and other vessels in that haven to ride in the midst of it as close to each other as they can; and being thus placed, they at a level water open their sluices and sosses, and give liberty to the pinned up waters from Bergue to run through the haven, so that it grinde the bottom through the intervals between the ships, that it carries away all the silt and sand out of the haven, whilst the ships rock too and fro, as if they would fall one upon another; and by this means the haven becomes as deep again. It is much the same with Delfts Haven in Holland, and that small river which comes from Overkey to the town and haven, doth the like effect with that of Dunkirk, otherwise there could be no haven, but by reason the sluices which cast their in-draughts into both these haven, stand at the very entrance of them, otherwise they could not grinde and effect so great a work.

WynoxBergue.

How the haven of Dunkirk is cleansed by the in-draught.

Now look back to ourselves which have been so much mistaken, as to make receptacles of in-draughts within land so remote from the out-falls, and you may be assured, that if the receptacle or in-draught made at Waldersey, had taken that effect as was supposed, to have received from a spring tide from sea six foot water, yet it could not have done you any good, by reason it

The receptacles in Waldersey dangerous to Coldham and Waldersey.



lay so far from the out-fall: but certain it is, that if it had proved that that in-draught had but gained from the sea, four, five, or six foot water, the banks had been gone long ere this; and Waldersey and Coldham had been both lost, or little worth.

I shall give you no farther trouble, but to assure you of my readiness to answer any other objections which may be made, against this my design, or way of draining, to the best of my knowledge and judgment.

Now give me leave to give you my sense of the great benefit which will arise to his sacred Majesty, the honourable corporation, the countrey, and the whole kingdom.

Considerable  
benefit to the  
king and king-  
dom.

His Majesties subjects in this Level, who were formerly very poor, by reason of the uncertainty of the banks, and their ground lying dry, but being once perfectly drained, will grow rich and populous, to the strengthening the king and kingdom.

Advantageous  
to some towns.

It will better navigation and trade to all his towns in this part of the kingdom.

His Majesty's  
land secured  
from drowning.

It secures his Majesty's land, being ten thousand acres lying in this Level, from all farther charge or fear of being drowned by any flood, either in winter or summer.

Fifty thousand  
acres of good  
land gained  
from the sea,  
called the  
Washes, the  
king's waste.

His Majesty gains hereby fifty thousand acres of good land, called now the Washes, or Salt Marshes; this land is equal to those lands in Marsland, or Holland, for goodness, the one lies on the east and the other on the west-side of these washes or salt marshes, which is all the king's waste: and I do affirm, that those washes contain more land then lies in Marsland itself; and more, those washes lies much higher then doth Marsland or the north-side of Wisbidge; yet through this wash doth Wisbidge River, Sheir-Drain, and Spalding River make their way to the sea. But when Wisbidge River, Sheir-Drain, with Spalding River, are forced to a better out-fall, as Wisbidge to great Owse, and Spalding River,

and Glean secured, to the great benefit of North and South Holland; then must those spacious washes suddenly become good land for this reason, *viz.* for these rivers by force of winter floods do scour and cleanse these washes, and will not suffer the silt or sand to bed upon them; but these rivers being taken away, which run through, and spread themselves upon these washes every low water, doth carry away to sea what the tide hath left behinde; but the cause being taken away, the effect ceaseth, and all those washes will become good land at little or no considerable charge; and yet the navigation of his Majesties towns of Lynne, Boston, and Wisbidge, much bettered, and prove great out-falls, and navigable channels to the North Sea.

Yet let me tell you, that though the freshes work this effect, to cleanse and scour the washes, yet the washes grow and get height upon them; and though formerly Wisbidge was the best out-fall in this great Level, and took much of our waters into it, which now run by Lyn, by reason of late years the sea hath left us, and the washes have gained a great height; and in my judgement it is impossible ever to gain any good out-fall through those washes, either for the river of Wisbidge, Sheir-Drain, or Spalding River.

The washes get height upon the freshes.

No good out-fall through the washes for Wisbidge, Spalding, or Sheir-Drain.

As for the Noble and Honorable Adventurers I shall say little, onely assure them, that this Design, and way of draining this great Level, being perfected, the great Level will be perfectly drained; whereby the great charge of maintaining two or three hundred miles in banking already made, will be taken off; which being of no farther use, will be of no farther charge: neither are they freed from this charge alone, but from the charge of many of their sluices and sosses; as that of Well-creek, and that upon Owse, at Saltors Load, and those works at Ely, which will become as useless as the two or three hundred miles of banking. And in fine, it may be be-

The charge of two hundred miles in banking taken off.

Some sluices and sosses become useless.



lieved, that six-pence the acre per annum, will maintain the charge of upholding the works, and procure a stock, if the beforementioned works be once sufficiently effected, for there will be no need of repairing of banks any more.

The division of the inter-common.

The benefit which will arise to the inhabitants of this country will be very considerable, in being freed from all danger of being drowned any more; that they may freely plow and sowe, build and plant; and then there will be no fear of the want of water in the summer, for themselves or cattle; and which will be very considerable, is the navigation to almost every small town in this Level, especially if their inter-commons be divided, which will be a great benefit both to the lords and the tenants: but in all these navigable cuts avoid banks, and then these cuts and division dikes may be done at a small charge, having a care to carry your leading drains into their proper out-falls of Bedford River, Great Owse, and Morton's Leam.

The province of Holland.

I shall not deviat from my present discourse, if I tell you, that by my observations abroad, both in my youth and age, I gained some experience to serve my native country; and that one province of Holland, I compute to be equally as large as this great Level; and I do verily believe that there is one hundred times more money expended in this province, in rivers, sluices, sosses, and bridges, then can be needful in this great Level of the Fens. The provinces of South and North Holland, Freizland, and Gronning, admit of no tides or rivers from the sea to run into them, onely South Holland admits of the river Maze to run to meet the river Rhyne; yet this Holland runs her water, into the river Maze by substantial sluices and navigable sosses, as I have seen at Mazelandt, Ulerdine, Skeydam, Delfts-haven, and at Rotterdam, all these play into the river Maze, which runs by the Brill to Dort. On the north-side of this province is

The provinces of South and North Holland, Freizland, and Gronning, admits no tides to run into them.

Harlem Mare, by sluces and sosses, at Amsterdam there are many, at Myden, Nardam, all these run into the Zuyder Sea, and yet those sluces, and those upon the river Maze, have not one quarter of the ebb to run at.

North Holland upon the Zuyder Sea hath its sluces to run at Sardam, Monkenden, Horn, Ancusen, and Middle-bleak, and they have not above a quarter ebb to run at; though they force their waters into those leading rivers by costly mills; and in this North Holland much of their richest grounds, where they make their best cheese, lie under the low water mark at sea, at least six or seven foot; as the Bempster, the Skermer, and the Wart, &c. they are all drained by a multitude of mills, each mill costs near six hundred pounds sterling. In the Skermer I have seen four mills, one standing four foot higher then the other, and they have worked one to another, till they have brought the water sixteen foot high, to run into the drains which leads to the sea.

North Holland hath not a quarter ebb to run at.

Draining with a multitude of mills.

Four mills to cast up water sixteen foot.

Freizland and Gronning, from Campen in Gilderland to Dam in Gronning, is all drained by sosses and sluces to sea-ward; the length of those three provinces is no less than an hundred and twenty miles along the sea coast, and yet they have no rivers run into them from the sea. I did observe in all those parts of the Netherlands where I have been, they do not admit the sea to flow into any of their provinces, but keep it out by their sluces and sosses, so far as art and cost will promise them security.

Great care to prevent the flowing in of the sea into any part of the provinces.

The sea kept out by sosses and sluces.

These works of theirs will confirm all rational persons, that if they have but one quarter of the ebb to run at, and lie dry, what can be said against a sluice and navigable soss at German-bridge, upon old Owse, and new Nean, which hath half the ebb but in a flood more, because the freshes do rise one foot within the sluice, for two foot the tide riseth against the sluice without, to sea-ward.

The sluice at German-bridge runs at half ebb, and more.



Marsland lower  
then the great  
Level of the  
fens, and yet is  
drained into the  
river Owse.

I hope the experience we all have of Holland, the north-side of Wisbidge, with that of Marsland, all of them lie below the fens of the great Level five or six foot, yet drain themselves into great Owse and the sea: neither are the benefits inconsiderable, which Holland, the north-side of Wisbidge, and Marsland, will receive by this design:

South Ea Bank  
secured.

As for Holland, all that bank called South Ea Bank, from Dowsdale to Clowes-Cross, being eight miles, which was believed formerly to have been a thousand pounds per annum charge, will be secured.

The north-side  
of Wisbidge  
drained, and  
the flat of Tid  
St. Mary's.

The north-side of Wisbidge will by this means save the repairing of that bank from Clowes-Cross to Guyheim, and part of the bank upon Wisbidge River which formerly cost much money; but the greater benefit this north-side of Wisbidge will receive, is the perfect draining of all that flat and low countrey; for which, they of the north-side of Wisbidge, and Tid St. Mary's, in the county of Lincoln, did contract for the giving a great proportion of land for the draining thereof.

1600*l.* per an-  
num charge  
taken off from  
Marsland.

Now as for Marsland their benefit will be the greatest, for this work being done, they save the charge of repairing all those banks from Germans-bridge upwards, on both sides of the river Owse, to Saltors Load, which is eight miles; and all those banks called New and Old Po Dike, which by their confession cost them yearly 1600*l.* And withal, they recover hereby the great common belonging to the seven towns in Marsland, and the common also called the Smee, for which a great quantity of land was offered to those which should undertake the draining of it, as I have been informed. And another considerable benefit is, they will constantly have fresh water out of the river from Wisbidge to German-bridge, and the bank lying upon the west of Marsland upon the washes, near fifteen miles in length, it costs much money, and

The great com-  
mon of the 7  
Towns of Mars-  
land drained,  
and the Smee.

Constant fresh  
water in Mars-  
land.

many times in danger of breaking, is hereby secured, the washes or salt marshes being gained from the sea, which will be effected in a short time.

If this work be performed, it is at the pleasure of the corporation to drain the great common in Marsland, belonging to the seven towns, containing five thousand acres, with the common called the Smee, containing about fifteen hundred acres; likewise, the draining of the north-side of Wisbidge, containing twelve thousand acres; also, all those grounds in Holland, belonging to Godney, Drove, Chapple, Holbidge, Fleet, St. James, Tid St. Mary's, which is reported to me to contain eight thousand acres of drowned land: and if the corporation please, they may drain all that part of the Queen's manor in Croyland, called Posant, which will be rich ground if once drained, and contains in it seven thousand acres, six whereof belongs to the Queen.

The benefit to the corporation towards their charge.

WILLIAM DODSON.

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*Answers to the several Objections against this my Designe, since the Delivery of it to the Honourable Corporation.*

First, It is objected, that the place that I intend to set the great sluice upon, which is near Magdalen, is a quick-sand. 1. Object.

To this I answer, that the place I have designed to set the great sluice upon is no quick-sand, but a firm and solid clay, as the place where Magdalen Bridge stands, or the sluice at Saltors Load, or Well-Creek; and this is at an easie charge made appear to them that doubt, by sinking the place twelve foot, where they will finde what I have asserted in my design to be truth. Answer.

2. Object. Secondly, It is objected, that the river is deep there, and that it is not possible to set a sluice in the river.

Answer. It was never intended to set this sluice and soss in the river, for that were great folly to undertake; but this sluice is set near the river of Owse, and so cut into the river; and although the river were as deep again as it is, it is all one; for I set not the sole of the sluice two foot below the channel (as it is pretended) but I set it two foot below the sole of the river, or low water mark, and therefore the depth of the river is no prejudice to me by being so deep, but contrary a great advantage, and of much benefit to carry away the freshes.

3. Object. Thirdly, It is objected, that if a sluice should be set there, that the doors of that sluice must be thirty foot in length.

Answer. The sluice I have designed is in height from the lowest stone in the foundation, to the highest stone in the work, but eight and twenty foot high; the several water-ways in this sluice but ten foot high; neither doth the greatest freshes within us rise above ten or twelve foot upon the sluice, why should the flood-gates then be made thirty foot high for ten or twelve foot water; you have a president by all those goats that stand upon the river Owse in Marsland, that drain all Marsland into that river, otherwise Marsland could not be drained, yet their flood-gates are not above five foot high set to low water mark, so that the spring tides flows about thirteen foot of plum water above them.

4. Object. Fourthly, It is objected, that if this sluice and river through Marsland were finished, it would do no good to the draining of the great Level, but no reason is given for it.

Answer. If that the gaining of a great and considerable descent to the sea, at the very out-fall, will do no good to drain that great and flat Level, that lies in a flood above twenty foot higher then low water mark at the out-fall,

and yet this out-fall but twelve miles from this flat Level, makes this objection frivolous. But to give farther satisfaction, I did desire a view might have been made of that river called the Horseshoe, below Wisbidge, where they might have seen the tide rise to the height of eight or nine foot up the banks of that river, higher then the superficies of Marsland; and if you will stay untill it be low water, you shall see this river two or three foot within soyl, lower then the superficies of Marsland; and yet the river of Owse at the great sluice, at low water mark, will be ten or eleven foot below the superficies of Marsland there; for all the descent of Marsland lies from the bank upon the Horseshoe, to the new sluice near Magdalen; and the goats in Marsland on the river Owse doth drain the whole countrey into the said river, following the refluxes of the tide.

It is objected, that the stopping of the tide by a sluice at Magdalen, will not take away the great waters in a flood from off the banks at Sutton and Meapool. 5. Object.

If the tide be not stopped here at Magdalen, or Germans, yea, lower to sea, if it were convenient, it is not possible but that in a flood, Swacy, Over, Erith, the washes, and those banks about Sutton Meapool, Wingham, Witchford, and Welney, must all suffer. My reasons are, Answer.

First, The floods come quick from St. Ives, making their way to sea; the water-way is large enough at Erith, it is confessed, but at Sutton, Galt, and Meapool, in the new Bedford River, there it runs upon an ascent, the like again at Pyemoor-hill, which is a great obstruction of the freshes in a flood running to sea; for gravels and fords in rivers are a great hinderance to the free passage of all waters: for although the river be never so deep, it must be allowed where such obstructions are, you can run no more waters in those rivers then what runs over your gravels or fords, and it is the same with Sutton, 1. Reason.



Galt, and Pyemoor-hill, in new Bedford River. Besides this, there is another great obstruction, which is the weeds that are admitted to grow in this, and many other of our rivers, and are of very dangerous consequence; for in a flood, where our freshes in this river hath but small descent, they hold them up, insomuch that the freshes are inforced to soyl through those weeds as through a ceive, which must of necessity cause those quick waters from the uplands to swell backwards, to the great damage of Erith, Swacy, and Over, on that side of the countrey.

2. Reason.

Secondly, After the flood hath passed these three great obstructions in this river, it meeteth with another rather worse then the former, which is the tide, and winde-catch; for when these great bodies of freshes come to run to the sea, they then at the very out-fall meets with the tide (who visits that river twice in four and twenty hours) and doth not onely stop the current of those freshes, and forceth them back even as far as Sutton-bridge upon new Bedford River; and if the winde blow hard almost in any point, when the floods are within the great wash of that river, the banks are in great danger of being lost, or blown up; for it maketh so rough a sea, that it washes and undermines the banks; and if it do not break them, it puts the corporation the next summer to a vast charge of repairing.

Now on the contrary, to free this Level from the bad effects of this indirect river, the tide, winde-catch, and weeds, to give this river from Erith free passage, by the old and famous river by it, (for it is old Bedford River that is the river) though it hath been much sleighted; yet if it had not been made use on of late years, it had been much worse for the countrey then it was. For I dare and will affirm, that the freshes in a flood shall vent themselves, running from Erith a day or two, at Saltors Load, by the old river, before they come down thither by

the new: now, these two rivers having their free passage, the weeds being cut and roded, and the tides stopped at Germans or Magdalen, will free this part of the Level, that is so much oppressed by St. Ives waters, the winde-catch, and the flux of the tide up that river, for the freshes then in those two spacious rivers hath no obstruction; for the tide being stopped at Germans, these rivers will run continually, having so great a receptacle as seven or eight miles in length, without the Level, from Saltors Load to Germans-bridge; for the freshes at the great sluice must rise at least ten foot higher then its usual height, to maintain navigation, before the water can run back at Saltors Load to obstruct the current of this river, which is impossible, if the sluice and soss be admitted to run; for the water-way in this sluice and soss is no less then an hundred eighty-two foot broad, and ten or eleven foot deep, which is more water-way by much, then runs through those two bridges of Wisbidge and Downham; now these rivers running thus continually in the greatest floods, it will be allowed, that the waters cannot lie long, or rise so high as formerly, by six foot upon those banks; if so, then the winde-catch cannot in the least prejudice those banks. By this, I hope, it may be perceived, that the waters cannot lie upon those banks of Sutton and Meapool, or in the least damnifie Erith, Swacy, and Over. This may be an answer for the river of Morton's Leam to Peterborough, and that part of the country, for the obstructions are the same.

Sixthly, It is objected, that my in-let of the river from Wisbidge into Marsland cut, cannot be performed at six foot deep, at the river called the Horseshoee, as I have designed it, and they give this reason for it, That if I make my river there six foot deep, the height of the tide will not reach the sole of that river to be cut through Marsland.

6. Object.

I shall not need to answer this objection, it being alto-

Answer.



gether without reason or sense, but referre you to my answer to the fourth objection, which will give any one full satisfaction.

7. Object. Seventhly, it is objected, that the charge of a sluice, the purchase of the grounds through Marsland, and the rest of the works designed by me, will cost 200000*l*.

Answer. To this I answer, that certainly they that made so large an estimate upon those works I have designed, know how to set a price upon their own ; for it is well known, the estimate I gave in to the honourable corporation, with my design, did not amount to above 46000*l*. for I had rather, and it was my resolution, to ask more, or at least as much as would do the work, (having so short a warning) then ask less, and the corporation should finde it more, thereby to induce the corporation to make use of my design ; but upon further consideration, and having better digested the charge, I have since for the better satisfaction of this honourable corporation, made a model of part of the great sluice, and the soss proportionable, to shew the true dimention of the same ; which sluice and soss will be undertaken at a price, by able and sufficient workmen. And that such mistakes as these may not affright the corporation from going on with so beneficial a work, I have here annexed to my designe, the estimate of all my works, as they are, and will be undertaken ; and shall be ready when this honourable corporation please, to make every particular of this account appear.

8. Object. Eighthly, It is objected, that this sluice is to master a quick water, which is not believed it is proper ; for the reason is, they have not known the like practised elsewhere.

Answer. As to this I hope to give full satisfaction, by several reasons, and examples of other countreys in the like case, as also some known to ourselves within the isle.

1. I shall instance in the first place Freizland, which is a

the new; now, these two rivers having their free passage, the weeds being cut and roded, and the tides stopped at Germans or Magdalen, will free this part of the Level, that is so much oppressed by St. Ives waters, the winde-catch, and the flux of the tide up that river, for the freshes then in those two spacious rivers hath no obstruction; for the tide being stopped at Germans, these rivers will run continually, having so great a receptacle as seven or eight miles in length, without the Level, from Saltors Load to Germans-bridge; for the freshes at the great sluice must rise at least ten foot higher than its usual height, to maintain navigation, before the water can run back at Saltors Load to obstruct the current of this river, which is impossible, if the sluice and soss be admitted to run; for the water-way in this sluice and soss is no less than an hundred eighty-two foot broad, and ten or eleven foot deep, which is more water-way by much, then runs through those two bridges of Wisbidge and Downham; now these rivers running thus continually in the greatest floods, it will be allowed, that the waters cannot lie long, or rise so high as formerly, by six foot upon those banks; if so, then the winde-catch cannot in the least prejudice those banks. By this, I hope, it may be perceived, that the waters cannot lie upon those banks of Sutton and Meapool, or in the least damnifie Erith, Swacy, and Over. This may be an answer for the river of Morton's Leam to Peterborough, and that part of the country, for the obstructions are the same.

Sixthly, It is objected, that my in-let of the river from Wisbidge into Marsland cut, cannot be performed at six foot deep, at the river called the Horseshoos, as I have designed it, and they give this reason for it, That if I make my river there six foot deep, the height of the tide will not reach the sole of that river to be cut through Marsland. 6. Object.

I shall not need to answer this objection, it being alto- Answer.



bles began in England; and then the people stole away the flood-gates, so that the out-fall of that river was suddenly silted up: and this sluice stood upon a considerable quick river.

6.

Sixthly, Come to the open soss and several sluices at Saltors Load, which was set down some fourteen years since upon this great quick, bulging upon the tide from sea, (and although it was made of wood, which cannot be durable against the sea) neither was it set in its proper place; yet it is clear it did much preserve that part of the Level, and also maintained navigation whilst it was kept in repair.

Now give me leave to give you my reasons, that a sluice upon a quick water is as useful, with as little danger, as a sluice upon a dead water, as it is termed; it is confessed, that a sluice upon a quick, that hath not water-way sufficient, is little better then a dam to obstruct the current of those rivers in a flood, and is destructive; but if there be water-way sufficient, and to spare, in the greatest flood, then this sluice or soss preserves that countrey from all sudden and quick floods without danger. And for the prevention of all sudden floods, it must be granted, that no flood falls into this Level, but by great rains, or sudden thaws, in the upland countreys; of which we cannot but be sensible some days before it come down, in which interim of time we pull up all our fall-gates, and run out all our freshes that are holden up by the sluice to maintain navigation, so that when the floods come down, the rivers are empty (if clear of weeds) to receive them; and if I run twice the water of those bridges where the floods must come under, certainly I may wait three hours in twelve upon the re-flux of the tide, and yet not so much if the flood be great; for as the tide riseth two foot without us, the freshes in a flood rise one within the sluice, by which

means we run the sooner, for our freshes run whether the tide be coming in or going out, until the tide rise higher then our freshes, and shuts the flood-gates.

These examples and reasons I hope may be sufficient, and give full satisfaction to them that doubt of the truth I have asserted in my design; for unless (in my judgment) we can master the tide, it is not possible to drain this Level.

Ninthly, It is objected, that the sluice I have designed 9. Object. will not bear the weight of water that will lie against it, and that the eager will carry away the sluice.

To this I answer, that the sluice I have designed is in Answer. the foundation two and fifty foot broad; the breadth of the sluice upwards is forty foot, and besides this breadth, between every arch a butterice raised from the foundation, on both sides the sluice, of three foot square, all of good brick, stone, lime, and tarras outwardly, which I do affirm is thrice the strength of any bank in Marsland: and further, to support this sluice, which in my judgment needs none, I keep the water eight foot high constantly to land-ward, to maintain navigation, so that I can have but the weight of ten foot water upon my sluice in the greatest tide. Now as to the stopping of the eager, which is no more then the flux of the tide from sea, which comes in quick, I shall onely say this, that if the tide be once stopped in any river whatsoever, by sluice or dam, it hath no more force; for when the current of the tide is so stopped, it riseth against that sluice or dam insensibly, and those sluices or dams beart no more but onely the weight of water that riseth upon them.

Tenthly, It is objected, that if the tide have not his 10. Object. flux and re-flux up Owse, it may be feared that Lynne River may be lost.

Where sluices with in-draughts are placed to any out-fall near the sea, they alwayes make good the channel or out-fall without them, as well as deepen the channels of Answer.

those rivers within them; now the flux of the tide is but a small distance from this sluice, and the re-flux the same, which continual motion of the tides ebbing and flowing in so short a distance, it cannot silt up that river, especially when there is so great a fresh within our in-draught, in those two great rivers, that leads all our freshes and floods to that sluice, and follows the tail of the tide to sea; which must in all reason grinde the channel to sea, to a great depth, below Lynne; and as it is now uncertain and dangerous, this will improve it to the admittance of greater vessels then formerly, to the great benefit of that port. And if the way that I have designed to drain this great Level should prove any wayes injurious to this town of Lynne, I would soon desist from prosecuting it any further; but I hope by this they understand a benefit and no damage to that town.

11. Object.

If I divert Wisbidge River from running through the washes, or salt marsh, then all those washes will become good ground; but then that part of Holland from the Sheir-drain to the river Welland, with the north-side of Wisbidge, will be lost, by reason they will lose the out-fall of Sheir-drain, Sutton-goat, Fleet-goat, Quapload-goat, and Weston-goat, which are their drains into the washes.

Answer.

To this I answer, to drain one part and drown another, is no part of my design, but what I endeavour, is to perfect and drain that part of Holland, with the north-side of Wisbidge, and yet drain the great washes containing near fifty thousand acres of the King's and Queen's waste, without prejudice to any land-holder in that part of Holland, or north-side of Wisbidge, but to their great benefit. For it will be confessed, that the town and high lands of Tid St. Mary's, Sutton, Gidney, Holbeach, Quapload, Molton, to Spalding, lies higher by six foot then the low grounds on the north-side of Wisbidge and Holland, and all these high lands before named, lies betwixt the sea and these low grounds; so that Cubbet, Spalding, Drove-

Chappel, Gidney, St. James, and Fleet, are forced to drain themselves by small cuts through this ascent betwixt the sea and them, in some place three, four, five, or six miles, and many of them seven and nine foot deep; yet for all this great depth of those drains, a great quantity of those low grounds are drowned commonly two foot; although you are at great charge with the spade to keep your goats and sluces open into the salt marsh or washes, and yet cannot drain yourselves: (the reason is plain) for it is well known to the ancient inhabitants, that the sea of late years hath lodged its silt and sand some feet above your sluces or goats to sea, and in short time the loss of much good land may be feared; yet to help you I do endeavour, but to hurt you, or any part of the countrey, is no part of my design. Now to free you from these inconveniences, the turning of Wisbidge River through Marsland near to Germans-bridge, will be of much advantage and benefit to those low grounds; for by the help of the sluice at Germans, we keep Wisbidge River, when we please, as low as we will; and this river of Wisbidge will prove the out-fall for all those low grounds of Holland, and the north-side of Wisbidge, and perfectly drain them winter and summer: my reason is this, those low grounds in Holland lies higher then those low grounds on the north-side of Wisbidge, and those waters in Wisbidge River will lie lower by six foot then the superficies of those lands or drowned grounds on the north-side of Wisbidge; so that at all times, by the help of a navigable river, through that part of Holland, from Cubbit upon Welland, to Grammoke-house upon Sheir-Drain, and from thence to Murrow-gate, and so to Leverington, into the river of Wisbidge; where you have so great a fall, that it absolutely drains all those drowned grounds aforesaid, and the best and most certain out-fall for Sheir-Drain, when Clowes-Cross will give



leave, to the great benefit of Thorney, Burrough great Fen, and the town of Croyland. This work will not only be of use to the perfect draining of all those grounds, but likewise better navigation from Lynne, Wisbidge, and Peterborough, to Spalding, to Boston, to Croyland, to Deeping, and to Stampford, by the help of a small single soss placed upon Welland River near Cubbit. This I have now said may be performed at an inconsiderable charge, considering the profit it brings with it, with the consent and allowance from the honourable corporation; of which there is no doubt, but they will be very willing to serve the countrey upon so publique an accompt, being of so great advantage to those parts and little or no damage to themselves.

Thus having (to the best of my judgment) answered the aforesaid objections, and do confess my obligation to him, or them that did make them; by which means, reason will finde the better allowance, and truth appear with more lustre. I shall now trouble the reader with some few objections of my own, against that design last intended to be put in practice, which were made according to the order of the honourable corporation; and shall as willingly receive satisfaction from him, or them, which are the present directors, as I am desirous my judgment, in this affair, may receive their approbation.

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*According to an Order of this Corporation, the 17th of November, 1664, I do here, with submission to the said Corporation, humbly tender these my Objections following, against that Design now in agitation.*

Whereas it is designed by this last new design, that 1.  
all rivers shall be left open to the sea, for the tide to have his free passage into all those great rivers.

First, To this I object, that if the flux of the tide from 1. Object,  
sea be admitted to flow up old Owse, Bedford River, and Morton's Leam, that the banks that are made, and to be made, in order to this design, cannot secure the Level from inundation, or drowning. My reasons are as followeth :

First, The tide flowing up the river of Owse and Wis- 1. Reason.  
bidge, hath been the destruction of all those undertakings, for the draining of the great Level: the reason is plain; the spring tides at Germans rise twenty foot from low water mark, and at Wisbidge it riseth fourteen foot at least above low water mark, running to sea; now the ascent of the tide from sea flowing so high within our Level, obstructs the freshes in their current to sea; and not onely that, but bears our freshes back (as I am credibly informed) that the freshes have been seen to run back through Sutton-bridge towards Erith, which is near thirty miles from Germans; the same it is with Morton's Leam up to Eldernel: therefore the flux of the tide is not to be admitted into any of our rivers.

Secondly, If the rivers be open to sea every spring tide, 2. Reason,  
if the windes blow hard at north or north-west, all the Level is in danger of drowning; (as for example) the last winter when you had little or no land floods, the spring tides putting in with a strong north winde, put Morton's

Leam in great danger; and as for Bedford River, it raised the waters so high, that it carried away a considerable part of one of the best banks, to the great dammage of the corporation and countrey.

3. Reason.

Thirdly, If the three rivers be left open, and admit of the tide to flow up them, then Peterborough and those parts adjacent must suffer, and so must Erith, Swacy, and Over, in that part of the countrey: neither can Haddenham, Swaftham, Water-beach, Stretham, or Wilberton, be freed from the said inconvenience, for it must be confessed at all hands, that Morton's Leam lies much higher then Bedford River, and Bedford River lies much higher then old Owse; and likewise it will be allowed, that the tide will flow equally up these two rivers of Owse and Bedford River, (for water will finde his level) now certainly it was very indiscreetly done of him, whosoever he was, that did give direction for a bank of six foot to be made upon Owse and Grant, against the tide, Owse being the lowest river in the whole Level, when they make banks of ten and twelve foot upon Bedford River and Morton's Leam, which lies higher then this river by much. And as for those banks designed to be made upon Mildenhall, Brandon, and Stoak, with those from Stretham-ferry up to Aldry Causey, they will not be able to secure that countrey; for as it is with Bedford River at Erith, Swacy, and Over, the same it will be with Stretham, Wilberton, Haddenham, and that part of the countrey; yea, rather much worse, by reason the river lies so low, it will give the greater reception to the tide: for when the tide did flow up Owse formerly, I have seen the water rise a foot at Stretham-ferry in a spring tide; and now the river being widened from Saltors Load to Littleport, you will finde it will flow into those parts with a more eager then formerly, to the destruction of that Level.

4. Reason.

Fourthly, If Owse and Bedford River be open to sea

for the tide to have his flux and re-flux, then will all Marsland be put in a hazzard of utter ruine, they being now at a vast charge to keep their banks from the fury of the eager, by lining their banks with brink wood, which is caused but by the admittance of the tide into one river; but when it shall have its free ingress and regress into those two spacious rivers of Owse and Bedford River, it will double the strength of the eager in his flux from the sea, having so great a reception above: and farther, in a frost when the ice shall come down those two great rivers, expecting to go to sea, the tide sends it back again, so that of necessity it will gore their banks, and hazzard their bridges; the like it will be with the banks of Owse, Bedford River, and Morton's Leam. And whereas it is supposed, nay believed, that the flowing of the tide up Owse will ease Bedford River, that the waters shall not rise so high there as they use to do, it is a great mistake, for the sea is as well able to furnish the whole Level with a conflux of waters, as those two rivers; and there is no doubt but the tide will rise as high in both rivers, as ever it did in new Bedford River; but if his water-way be not wide enough in Owse at present, he will run so much the stronger, and in a short time he will make his way, having so great a reception, as is now allowed him, though to the great prejudice of Marsland.

Whereas it is likewise designed, that a new cut be made from Rassels Dam to Littleport Chair, and the old river dammed up near Rassels Dam. 2.

To this I object, That if you make this new river from Rassels Dam to Littleport Chair, and dam out Owse, and suffer the tide to flow up, (which must of necessity when Saltors Load sluice is taken up) you hazzard the loss both of the new cut and old river; for the making of this new cut is no more, then what was done by the Right Honourable, Francis Earle of Bedford, and his 2. Object.



participants in Lynne Law, and was called Sandys River, yet they did never attempt to dam up Owse; this river was made then in a direct line to Littleport Chair, and they then admitting the tide to flow up Owse, it was in four or five years silted up and utterly lost, although they had four times more freshes to maintain it, then this designed river is like to have: and as to old Owse, if you admit a dam upon that, then the tide will without all question silt up that river, having little or no freshes admitted to run through it to scowr the silt away, so that consequently you must lose both the new cut and the old river.

3. Whereas it is designed, that for the maintaining of navigation, the weeds in the rivers are not to be cut or roded in dry summers, that the waters may not run out of the countrey, but hold up your freshes.

3. Object. To this I object, That if you keep not your rivers and leading drains to them well roded twice in a summer, you hazzard your meadows, and other good grounds, to a sudden flood from the land-water, for the weeds hold up the freshes more then sluices; and these weeds admitted, decayes those rivers and drains they are suffered to grow in, and destroyes navigation.

4. Whereas a multitude of banks, weer-dikes, cuts, in-drains, counter-banks, sluices, and tunnels are designed for the draining of this great and flat Level, to the vast expence and charge of the corporation.

4. Object. To this I object, That the number of the several works in this design, is an hundred and odd, and most of them vast and chargeable; and if the sea be admitted to flow into the countrey, they are no wayes able to withstand the flux of the tide, brought in by a northerly or north-west winde, meeting with the land-floods: on the contrary, if the flux of the sea be stopped at a distance from the Level, then they are useless, and may prove hurtful, and hinder the descent of the down-fall, or small drains,

into the three rivers that will run low to receive them. Now before this design was known, it was declared, that there was no less than three hundred miles of banking to be repaired, and this new design speaks of more banks to be made, with new cuts, in-drains, and counter-banks; which charge of making and repairing, I fear will cost more than the annual rent of the 95000 acres is able to maintain: and although these works mentioned were finished, the whole Level would be in a perpetual danger; for it is no other than what hath been practiced these fourteen years, to carry the freshes so high, as to ride the tide; which I doubt not but both the corporation and countrey are sensible of the difficulty to effect it with banks of moor earth, and in truth not to be performed. As for your brick-tunnels under your rivers, they are no wayes useful in this flat Level, whether you admit the tide in, or keep it out: if you exclude the tide, it may be requisite to have small sluices upon the out-fall of your creeks and leading-drains, where it may be needful, into the three rivers, to hold up water for your cattle, by reason your three rivers will run so low.

By this you see my objections and reasons against the flux of the tide into this flat Level, which if that should be stopped, then you need not the help of those chargeable moory banks, which hath so often deceived you, excepting Bedford River and Morton's Leam banks, which in twenty years will require no repairing, nor can suffer any breaches, by reason the freshes cannot lie three neaps of a tide two foot upon the banks. Besides these two now named, there is Burrough single bank, from Peakirk to Croyland, four miles in length; likewise Croyland single bank, from Croyland to Clout-house, two miles in length; these must be kept in repair to resist the river Welland, which lies much above our Level, and is excluded from us; so that it is easily perceived, that four or five hundred miles of banking will be laid

aside as useless: for if you exclude the tide, your vast and uncertain charges will be taken off; but on the contrary, if you admit the tide to flow into the Level, as is intended by this new design, your banks, counter-banks, weer-dikes, and tunnels, will not secure the Level from inundation.

Thus, according to your order, and for the better satisfaction, that so the truth might the better appear, I humbly tender these my objections and reasons against that design now in agitation, and leave myself, with them, to the judgement of this honourable corporation.

WILLIAM DODSON.

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*A Breviat of the whole Charge of the Works mentioned in Collonel Dodson's Designe, for the perfect Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level.*

	£	s.	d.
IMPRIMIS, The great sluice and soss at Germans near Magdalen, as they are designed to be builded with brick, stone, flood-gates, fall-gates, soss-gates, iron-work, and workmanship, and allowed by workmen, will cost	-	-	- 9833 15 6

The making the river through Marsland, from the river called the Horseshoe to Germans-bridge, with banks and in-drains, at 5 <i>l.</i> a pole, will cost	-	-	- 12800 0 0
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The purchase of the land in Marsland, where the river, banks, and in-drains, are cut out of, at 15 <i>l.</i> an acre for the purchase, will cost	-	-	- 1575 0 0
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	£	s.	d.
The purchase of the land, with the making of banks and in-drains of the new cut, from the river of Owse to the great sluice, will cost - - - -	384	7	6
The making of Sandy's River, from Ely to Littleport Chair, at 1 <i>l.</i> 15 <i>s.</i> a pole, will cost - - - -	1680	0	0
The sluice and soss at Guyheirne, allowing the timbers of the sluice and soss at Saltors Load, there to be delivered, will cost 500 <i>l.</i> otherwise the charge of that sluice and soss will be double - - - -	500	0	0
The sluice and soss at Ditton by Cambridge, allowing the timbers of Knowl Sluice, with the timbers at the brick-kills, there to be delivered, will cost 200 <i>l.</i> otherwise the charge of that sluice and soss will be double - - - -	200	0	0
The taking up the shelves and flats in the rivers of Owse and Grant, will cost -	600	0	0
The making of the two dams, one over the river of Owse by Magdalen, and the other over the river called the Horseshoos below Wisbidge, will cost - -	600	0	0
The making of the pit for the great sluice at Germans, or near Magdalen, may cost	200	0	0
The tarras to be made use of in and about the great sluice and soss, may cost	200	0	0
The Total	28573	3	0



## No. XXI.

1667.

## TAX ACT AND SCHEDULES,

Anno XX. CAROLI II. Régis.

*An Act for the Tuxing and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens.*

Récital of 15  
Car. 2.

Powers given  
by 15 Car. 2.  
to lay taxes.

Said powers  
executed.

Wherein cor-  
poration have  
proceeded by  
an acre-tax, to

WHEREAS by an act made in this present parliament, entituled, An Act for settling the Draining the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, it is amongst other things enacted, that the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the corporation in the said act mentioned, and by virtue of the same from time to time to be elected and appointed, for the time being, or any five or more of them (whereof the governor and bailiffs for the time being, or any of them, to be two) should and might from thenceforth use the power and authority of commissioners of sewers within the said Great Level, and from time to time lay and impose taxes upon the ninety-five thousand acres within the said Level in the said act mentioned, for the maintenance and preservation of the same, as by the said act appeareth: and whereas since the making of the said act, the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, in execution of the power and authority thereby to them given, have laid and imposed taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, for the purposes by the said act specified and appointed, wherein they have proceeded by way of an acre-tax, at a certain rate by the acre, and have enforced the

payment of the same after that manner, to the great damage of divers of the adventurers and participants, for that the said ninety-five thousand acres are not only much different in the natural richness and barrenness of their soil, but likewise some parts of the said lands are, by frequent inundations and otherwise, exceedingly peyorated and made worse, and the corn, hay, seed, or grass thereupon often destroyed; yet the same lands are equally taxed with the best and most secure lands in the said Level as aforesaid; the which said way of raising draining-taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, by an equal acre-rate, hath been found to be inconvenient: and for removing the said inconvenience, the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators have of late proceeded to a more indifferent way of taxing of the said ninety five thousand acres, (that is to say) by a gradual acre-tax of five sorts, upon eighty-three thousand acres, part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, and by a medium of the twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres: and to the intent that encouragement may be given for the better improving of the said ninety-five thousand acres, and that a constant and certain way of taxing may be continued and established for the future;

the damage of  
adventurers as  
the lands differ  
in value.

For remedying  
which corpora-  
tion have taxed  
by a gradual  
acre-tax of five  
sorts, on  
83000 acres,  
and by a me-  
dium on  
12000 acres.

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and assent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons in this parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all taxes hereafter to be set and imposed for the maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, are hereby appointed and declared to be from time to time assessed and taxed by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs for the time being, or any of them to be two, upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, part and parcel of the said ninety-five thousand

Enacted that  
for the future  
all taxes laid  
on the 83000  
acres, part  
of the 95000  
acres, for  
maintenance of  
Great Level, be  
according to a  
gradual acre-  
tax of different  
sorts and de-  
grees, and ac-  
cording to the  
respective  
values.

acres, by a gradual acre tax of different sorts and values of lands; the which said gradual acre-tax set as aforesaid, and all future gradual acre-taxes to be set, shall be received, paid and levied, with like penalties in the said recited act provided for non-payment of taxes, by such and the like ways and means as by the said recited act are provided for to be paid and levied; and the said eighty-three thousand acres for raising of taxes for support and maintenance of the Great Level, are not to be rated or assessed otherwise, or in any other manner than according to a gradual acre-tax of different sorts and degrees, and according to the respective values and rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated as is hereafter appointed upon the said eighty-three thousand acres; any law, statute, or other thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

12000 acres,  
residue of  
95000 acres,  
when the  
whole 95000  
are taxed for  
6110*l.* 7*s.* 1*½d.*  
to be taxed at  
1*s.* 3*d.* per acre,  
and so in pro-  
portion.

And whereas the said twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, are by the said gradual acre, taxed towards the raising of the sum of six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings one penny halfpenny, are rated and taxed at one shilling three pence *per* acre, being a medium as if the whole ninety-five thousand acres had been rated, taxed, and assessed at fifteen pence *per* acre; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that when and so often as a tax of the said sum of six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings one penny halfpenny, shall be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, that then the said twelve thousand acres shall be rated, taxed, and assessed by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, and their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, at fifteen pence the acre, and according to the proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser sum than six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings one penny halfpenny, to

be received, paid and levied, together with penalties, in such and the like manner as the taxes set and imposed, or to be set and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, are by this act provided for to be received, paid and levied. And be it further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, that no taxes to be set by virtue of this act, shall be set or imposed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or their successors, or any five or more of them, but upon Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, next after the first Sunday in April, or some or one of them three days yearly for ever, and not at any other time; any law, custom, or usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding\*.

Taxes not to be set but upon Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday next after the first Sunday in April.

And whereas by the said recited act, it is amongst other things provided, that sales for non-payment of taxes shall be made at Ely upon Wednesday and Thursday in Whitsun week yearly, the which season is found to be inconvenient: for remedy whereof, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that from and after Whitsun week, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty-eight, those days for sales shall be altered and changed unto the said Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after the said first Sunday in April in every year, and all other matters and things concerning or relating to sales for non-payment of taxes, by the said recited act provided, are to stand in force and to be observed with this; that the serjeant at mace of the said Great Level shall from time to time, by precept under the seal of the corporation of the said Great Level, in nature of a writ of *Habere fac' possessionem*, at common law, deliver possession unto such person or persons as shall purchase any part of the said ninety-five thousand acres for non-pay-

Sales for non-payment of taxes to be at Ely on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after the first Sunday in April.

Serjeants at mace, by precept under corporation seal, to deliver possession of lands sold for non-payment of taxes.

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\* This regulation is subsequently altered by the Style Act. Vide Appendix for 24 Geo. II, c. 23.



Corporation to affix the seal to such precepts.

ment of taxes; and the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators are hereby required and authorized to affix the seal of the said corporation, from time to time, to the precept or precepts, at the charge of the parties requiring the same; any law, statute, usage, or custom to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

That 83,000 acres may be more equally taxed, commissioners appointed to survey and value the same, and digest the same not under the number of seven sorts and degrees. To tax the same in schedules to be returned unto the Fen Office. This to be done on oath.

And to the end that the said eighty-three thousand acres may be more equally taxed by a gradual acre-tax, not under the number of seven sorts; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that Edward Partheriche, Esq. Samuel Fortrey, Esq. Richard Mariot, Esq. John Mingay, Jonas Moore, Peter Diamond, Esquires, Anthony Hammond, Esq. Mark le Pla, Gent. and John Bridgman, jun. Gent. or any three or more of them, are hereby constituted and appointed to be surveyors and valuers of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and are within twelve months next after the passing of this act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into such number of sorts or degrees of land not under the number of seven sorts and degrees; and to rate and tax such degrees, and digest the same into schedules in writing, and make returns thereof upon their oaths into the Fen Office; the form of which said oath shall be, (*viz*):

Form of oath to be administered to commissioners.

*I A. B. do swear, that according to the best of my skill and knowledge, I will faithfully discharge the trust of surveying, sorting, dividing and rating of eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of ninety-five thousand acres, within the Great Level of the Fens, known by the name of Bedford Level, according to seven degrees or more, as I upon my oath shall think most equal.*

Corporation to administer oath, to pay surveyor and valuers for their trouble.

The which said oath the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any three or more of them, are hereby authorized to administer, and also to allow unto the said surveyors, or valuers, such reasonable charges for their

travel and pains therein as they shall think fit; and after the same are returned into the said Fen Office, and there publickly set up, which said return is hereby enacted to be made within one month after the survey taken, and the several valuations by the parties to that purpose by this act appointed and agreed upon, and all parties aggrieved may take their exceptions within thirty days after the same are set up; and within forty days next after such exceptions taken, may appeal for relief unto the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any five or more of them, for altering the said schedules in the rates and values complained of, so as the parties appealing shall prosecute the said appeal within the said forty days, and not at any time after: and in case the said governor, bailiffs and conservators shall not, within the said forty days relieve the said parties grieved, or if the said parties shall not be satisfied with the determination of the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, that then the said parties may appeal unto Sir Henry North, Baronet, Sir Levinus Bennet, Baronet, Sir Robert Brook of Yoxford, Knight, Sir Edmond Pooley, Knight, Henry Williams, Robert Apreece, Richard Naylor, Humphry Orme, Morris Tresham, Lawrence Oxborough, Henry Farrer junior, Edward Barber, Matthew Wren, Thomas Marsh, Henry Fitch, Doctor of Laws, Thomas Steward, Anthony Fisher, Mathias Tayler, John Towers, Esquires, and Burrage Martin, Gent. or any three or more of them, who are hereby constituted and appointed commissioners of appeal to hear and determine such complaints, and to give relief therein as they shall see cause, and to award costs to either party as they shall see cause, the which said costs may be recovered by action of debt in any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster, wherein no essoign or wager of law shall be allowed; which said appeals to the commissioners shall be duly prosecuted by the said parties grieved within two months next after

Returns made into the Fen Office to be publickly set up.

Parties aggrieved may take exceptions and appeal to the corporation.

If parties are dissatisfied with the judgment of the corporation, may appeal to commissioners of appeal.

who are empowered to determine and award costs.



Schedules with alterations made by corporation, or commissioners of appeal, hereby confirmed and made a rule for taxing 83000 acres.

Corporation not to tax otherwise than according to schedules.

12000 acres, residue of 95000 acres, to be taxed by a medium.

Tax of 6110*l*. 7*s*. 1½*d*. to be set in Whitsun Week next on 83000 acres, according to five degrees, on 12000 acres at 1*s*. 3*d*. per acre.

Sale to be on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, after first Sunday in April ;

ever after according to this act.

Sir Miles Sandys the elder, and Sir Miles

the expiration of the forty days, and not at any time after; the which said schedules with the alterations, if any shall be made by the said corporation wherewith the parties shall rest satisfied, or by the determination of the said commissioners of appeal, are hereby confirmed, and shall be a constant rule and foundation for the rating and taxing of the said eighty-three thousand acres for the future, for maintenance and preservation of the works made and to be made within or without the said Great Level of the said fens; and that the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, nor their successors, nor any of them, shall tax or assess the said eighty-three thousand acres, otherwise than by and according to the said schedules to be returned or confirmed as aforesaid; and it is declared that the said twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, shall be rated and taxed by a medium towards all taxes hereafter to be laid, as by the said tax made the said twentieth day of June is provided, and not otherwise.

And it is hereby further enacted, that a tax of the said sum of six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings one penny halfpenny, shall and may be set by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them, in Whitsun week next, upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, according to the said gradual acre-tax of five degrees, upon the said twelve thousand acres, at fifteen pence per acre; and for non-payment shall and may be levied by sales on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday after the said first Sunday in April then next following; and that from thenceforth all future taxes shall be laid and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand acres by a gradual acre-tax not under seven degrees, and twelve thousand acres in such manner and form as by this act is provided, and not otherwise. And whereas Sir Miles Sandys the elder, and Sir Miles Sandys the younger, were adventurers and participants

with Francis late Earl of Bedford in the said Level, and had an interest in several shares, lots and proportions in the said Great Level; the right, title and interest in great part of which said shares and lots were, as appears by indenture bearing date the twelfth day of June in the first year of his now Majesty's reign, made between Sir Miles Sandys the younger of the one part, and Thomas Sandys, Esq. and Robert Sandys, Clerk, Humberstone Marsh, Esq. Samuel Spalding, Gent. William Wolson, Clerk, and John Kirk of the second part, and Samuel Sandys, of Ombersley, Esq. on the third part, settled in several trustees therein named, in trust for the payment of all such taxes as should be due for or in respect of the said lands mentioned in the said indenture, and after in trust for the securing of the said Samuel Sandys, Esq. from all such debts as he the said Samuel Sandys stood engaged for, the proper debts of the said Sir Miles Sandys the elder, and Sir Miles Sandys the younger: since which said indenture so had and made, the said Samuel Sandys the elder, has paid great sums of money for and towards the satisfaction of the said debts of Sir Miles Sandys the elder and Sir Miles Sandys the younger, and yet hath reaped no benefit by virtue of the said deed or trust so as aforesaid made for his security, although by an act made by this present parliament, intituled, An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, the said Samuel Sandys ought to have had a conveyance of the shares and lots mentioned in the said indenture: but in regard the said Samuel Sandys, Esq. nor any in trust for him, could procure any conveyance, which hath proved very prejudicial to the said Samuel Sandys the elder.

Sandys the younger, the shares they adventured for settled in trust on Samuel Sandys, Esq. for payment of debts, &c.

but he hath not been able to get any conveyance thereof.

Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, the Lords spiritual and temporal, and the commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all the said lots and shares in

All the said shares except as hereby excepted.



hereby vested  
in the sons of  
said Samuel  
Sandys dis-  
charged of  
taxes ;

subject to pay-  
ment of debts  
according to  
the original  
trust.

and to future  
taxes.

Sales for non-  
payment of  
taxes of said  
shares under  
15 Car. 2. null  
and void.

the said indenture mentioned (except only such lands of the said half share as were really sold by Sir Miles Sandys the elder, or Sir Miles Sandys the younger, for full and valuable considerations, and such of the said two shares which have been sold for the payment of taxes or debts in pursuance of the said indenture by the said Sir Miles Sandys and the trustees, parties to the said indenture) are hereby vested and settled in Samuel Sandys the younger, Esq. and Edwin Sandys, Gent. sons of the said Samuel Sandys the elder, their heirs and assigns, freed and discharged from all manner of taxes whatsoever to the time of the passing this act ; and by the authority aforesaid, the freehold and inheritance of the said lots and shares aforesaid, except before excepted, shall be deemed and adjudged to be in the said Samuel Sandys the younger and Edwin Sandys, their heirs and successors for ever ; nevertheless the said shares and lots, hereby vested, shall be liable to the payment of the debts aforesaid, and to all powers and jurisdictions, together with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, as the same are subject and liable by the said recited act for the future, and of all such taxes and penalties as shall be hereafter assessed or laid for the preservation of the said Great Level, in such sort and manner as the eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of the ninety-five thousand acres, shall be assessed and taxed ; any law, statute, or thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every the sale or sales made, agreed or contracted for, for non-payment of taxes of any of the lands of the said Sir Miles Sandys the elder or Sir Miles Sandys the younger, or the said Samuel Sandys the elder, Esq. by the governors, bailiffs, and conservators, constituted and elected by authority of an act of this present parliament, intituled, An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens cal-

led Bedford Level, to any person or persons whatsoever by virtue or colour of the said act, is, are and shall be null and void; and that the said lands sold by the said governors, bailiffs, and conservators, (except before excepted) are and shall be vested in and settled by this present act in the said Samuel Sandys the younger, and Edwin Sandys, their heirs and assigns, freed and discharged of and from all taxes laid by the said governors, bailiffs, and conservators; any thing in the said recited act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And to the end the said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys may have the effect and benefit hereby intended them; and that the occupiers and possessors of the said shares and lots, vested in them the said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys as aforesaid, may not, by their continuing in possession and neglect of paying the taxes hereafter to be imposed on the said shares and lots, or any part of them, cause the same to be forfeited and sold for non-payment of the respective taxes that shall become due for the same; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That in case any occupier or possessor of any the said shares or lots in the said deed of trust mentioned as aforesaid, or of any part of them, pretending to claim under the said deed of trust or otherwise, that shall refuse to deliver or yield up the possession of such part of the said shares or lots to them the said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys, or their assignees, and shall not duly pay the taxes hereafter to be imposed on the same before our Ladyday one thousand six hundred seventy-one, That then the serjeant-at-mace for the time being, attending the said corporation, is hereby authorized and empowered by precept under the seal of the corporation of the said Great Level (who are hereby required to grant and issue out the same) in the nature of a writ of *Habere facias possessionem* at the common law, to deliver unto, and put them the said Samuel

The Sons of the said Samuel Sandys to be put into possession thereof by a precept under the corporation seal.

Sandys and Edwin Sandys, their heirs or assigns, in the quiet and peaceable possession of such shares and lots, or any part of them; and all and every such occupier or occupiers, possessor or possessors thereof, off and from the same to eject, expel and amove; they the said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys, upon reasonable notice, first paying or tendering such taxes as shall become due for the same from the time of the passing this act, one month before the next day of sale for non-payment of such taxes hereafter to be imposed; which said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys, and their heirs, are thereupon hereby actually vested in the same.

All arrears of rent since 15 Car. 2. on the said shares to be paid to the sons of Samuel Sandys.

And whereas the said several shares and lots of the said ninety-five thousand acres, hereinbefore vested and settled in the said Samuel Sandys the younger, and Edwin Sandys, and their heirs as aforesaid, ought to have been conveyed unto the said Samuel Sandys the Elder, or his trustees, by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, by virtue of the said before-mentioned act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they refuse to do, whereby the rents, issues, and profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said Samuel Sandys the Elder, or his trustees, or by any other, by, to, or for his or their use; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Samuel Sandys, and Edwin Sandys, shall and are hereby intituled to the said rents, issues, and profits of the said shares and lots since the passing of the said recited act, which have not really been paid to the said corporation for taxes, or to the said Samuel Sandys the Elder, and the occupiers and possessors thereof are hereby appointed to pay the same accordingly; and in default of payment thereof, or of any part thereof, they the said Samuel Sandys and Edwin Sandys are hereby authorized and impowered to sue for, and by virtue of this act shall recover the same,

who may sue for the same.

wherein no essoign, protection, or wager of law shall be allowed, and shall likewise have their costs of suit expended therein; any thing herein to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That after the said Edwin and Samuel Sandys shall have recovered and received satisfaction for the mean profits, or any part of them: that then they, their heirs and assigns, shall pay so much of the said arrears of the said gradual acre-tax, imposed upon the said respective lands, proportionably to what they shall receive and no more.

The Sons of said Samuel Sandys to pay arrears of taxes in proportion to rents received.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That whereas several parcels of the said ninety-five thousand acres ought to have been conveyed to Thomas Lord Culpepper or his trustees, by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, by virtue of the said before recited act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they delayed to do, whereby the rents, issues and profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said Thomas Lord Culpepper or his trustees, that the said Thomas Lord Culpepper, and his trustees, shall and are hereby intituled to the said rents, issues and profits of the said parcels, since the passing of the said recited act, which have not been really paid to the corporation for taxes, or to him or them; and the occupiers and possessors thereof are hereby required to pay the same accordingly; and in default of payment thereof, or any part thereof, he the said Thomas Lord Culpepper, and his trustees, are hereby authorized and impowered to sue for, and by virtue of this act shall recover the same, wherein no essoign, protection, or wager of law shall be allowed, and shall likewise have their costs of suit expended therein; any thing to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Parts of the 95000 acres not conveyed to Lord Culpepper or his trustees, to be conveyed; and he and his trustees to recover rents in arrear.



THE  
SURVEY

OF THE

EIGHTY-THREE THOUSAND ACRES,

Parcel of Ninety-five Thousand Acres within the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, returned into the Fen Office, sorted into eleven several Degrees by Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott, John Mingay, and Anthony Hammond, Esquires, Marke Le Pla, and John Bridgman, Gentlemen, Persons constituted and appointed by an act of this present Parliament, intituled, "An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens, for surveying, sorting, dividing and rating the same."

Set up in the Office the tenth of October 1668, by Order of the ninth of September last.

THE FIRST LOT.

N. B.—The letters S. M. and N, mean the South Level, the Middle Level, and the North Level.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
1	Haddenham Common, A.	-	100	0	0	5 s
2	Botsham High Fen,					
	one hundred forty	{	70	0	0	6 s
	acres, - -					
			70	0	0	7 s
Carried up			240	0	0	

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought up	240	0	0		
3	Sutton Meadlands, next to Middle-moor -	131	0	0	6	M
4	Westmoor, north of Bedford river -	A. 400	0	0	3	M
5	Coveny Severals -	A. 73	0	0	3	S
6	Helgay Common by Capt. Skipwith's Bank -	318	0	0	4	S
7	Townmoor, Arkenstall, Unley Severals, Eastmoor, Little Shel, and Thompson's Fen in Lakingheath, and two Sedge Fens, and Coplowe Fen in Mildenhall	A. 200	0	0	2	S
8	Whelpmoor, Lowellmoor, and Spains Delph -	A. 478	0	0	4	S
9	Stuntney Common -	32	0	0	4	S
10	Stuntney Farm -	22	0	0	4	S
11	Stuntney Small Severals -	12	0	0	4	S
12	Part of Thorney -	100	0	0	3	N
13	One several in Woodwalton -	15	0	0	4	M
14	Grunty Fen -	A. 100	0	0	3	S
15	Bezeling in Doddington -	344	0	0	3	M
16	Creek Fen in Doddington, A. next towards March -	200	0	0	3	M
17	Stoney Fen and Block Common, A.	500	0	0	4	M
18	Somersham Common, A. next Croylode -	300	0	0	5	M
19	Great Bradney Moor, A. several in Doddington -	162	2	0	4	M
20	Severals in Doddington -	32	2	0	4	M
21	Hale Fen Common and Sedge Fen, a several by Welney, next to Welney -	A. 200	0	0	2	S
Carried over		3860	0	0		

## APPENDIX,

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	3860	0	0		
22	Severals of Well and Welney	- 40	0	0	5	M
23	Westmoor North, D. the fourth piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
24	Westmoor South, P., the sixth piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		
Quantity of each Sort in the First Lot.		450	0	0	2	
		1167	0	0	3	
		1354	0	0	4	
		758	0	0	5	
		201	0	0	6	
		70	0	0	7	

## THE SECOND LOT.

1	Haddenham Common	- B.	100	0	0	5	S
2	Sutton in North Fen	-	272	0	0	5	M
3	Westmore North	- B.	400	0	0	3	M
4	Coveney Severals	- B.	73	0	0	3	S
5	Methwold Common and Feltwell North Fen	- A.	400	0	0	1	S
6	Townmoor in Lakeingheath, &c.	B.	200	0	0	1	S
7	Welpemoor, &c.	- B.	461	0	0	4	S

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Carried up 1906 0 0

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Brought-up 1906	0	0			
8 Ladus Fen, next unto Creek Fen	115	0	0	4	M
9 Botsham, Qui, and Ditton Inter- common, A., next Botsham					
Lode - - -	100	0	0	1	S
10 Langwood Fen in Chartresse A.	300	0	0	4	M
11 Creek Fen in Doddington B.	260	0	0	3	M
12 Stoney and Blofen Common B.	400	0	0	4	M
13 Somersham Common - B.	300	0	0	4	M
14 Severals in March -	68	0	0	4	M
15 Upwood Fen, lying next towards Ramsey - - -	451	0	0	2	M
16 Westmoor, M. the twelfth piece from Welney - - -	50	0	0	3	M
17 Westmoor South, A., the twentieth Piece from Welney - - -	50	0	0	2	S
	4000	0	0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Se- cond Lot.	700	0	0	1	
	501	0	0	2	
	783	0	0	3	
	1644	0	0	4	
	372	0	0	5	

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THE THIRD LOT.

1 Isleham Common - - -	125	0	0	2	S
Nearest the River - - -	125	0	0	3	S
2 Middleditch Fen in Wivelingham	77	1	0	11	S

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Carried over 327 1 0



		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levies.
	Brought over	327	1	0		
3	Great Shelford in Wivelingham	12	3	0	11	s
4	Sutton, the remainder of North Fen, and the Middle next towards Chartresse Fens, and six acres twenty-six perches in West Fen adjoining	-	32	0	0	4 m
5	Westmoor North	- C. 200	0	0	3	m
6	Westmoor South	- A. 200	0	0	2	s
7	Ramsey Severals	- A. 73	0	0	5	m
8	Methwold Common, &c.	- B. 400	0	0	1	s
9	Townmoor, &c.	- C. 200	0	0	1	s
10	Brandon Commons	- 350	0	0	3	s
11	North Clouds, A., Common of Lakeingheath	- A. 58	2	0	4	s
12	Severals of Lakingheath	- A. 52	2	0	3	s
13	Ladus Fen	- B. 115	0	0	4	m
14	Grunty Fen	- B. 100	0	0	3	s
15	Langwood Fen	- B. 300	0	0	4	m
16	Whitmoor in Doddington, A., the Parcel of three hundred acres diked out	- 300	0	0	4	m
17	Stoney and Blockfen Common, C.	400	0	0	4	m
18	Eusimoor, Well, Pingle and Farmer's Fen	- A. 500	0	0	3	m
19	Conington Severals, A., in the Greater Fen	- 200	0	0	4	m
20	Well and Welney Severals	- 79	0	0	5	m
21	Westmoor North, N., the thirteenth piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	m
22	Westmoor South, S., the third piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	s
		<u>4000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Quantity of each Sort in the Third Lot.	600	0	0	1	
	875	0	0	2	
	1277	2	0	3	
	1505	2	0	4	
	152	0	0	5	
	90	0	0	11	

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THE FOURTH LOT.

1	Haddenham Common	C.	100	0	0	5	s
2	Barway Middle and Fordey in Soham - -	-	231	0	0	7	s
3	Honey Fen in Chartresse	-	40	0	0	5	m
4	Westmoor South -	B.	400	0	0	2	s
5	Ramsey Severals -	B.	74	0	0	5	m
6	Methwold Common, &c.	C.	400	0	0	1	s
7	Townmoor, &c. -	D.	200	0	0	1	s
8	Whelpmoor, &c. -	C.	461	0	0	4	s
9	Sir Miles Sandys' imbanked Ground -	B.	115	0	0	3	s
10	Grunty Fen -	C.	126	0	0	3	s
11	Wendy Fen in Chartres	-	300	0	0	4	m
12	Whitemoor in Doddington, B. next to the three hundred acres diked out -	-	400	0	0	4	m
13	Eusimoor, &c. -	C.	548	0	0	3	m
14	Somersham - -	C.	300	0	0	4	m
15	Feltwell Severals -	D.	80	0	0	2	s
16	Caldecott Severals -	-	56	0	0	2	m
17	Mr. Tyrrell's Ground by Priest Houses, twenty-four acres and three acres -	-	27	0	0	3	s

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Carried over 3858 0 0

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levls.
	Brought over	3858	0	0		
18	Severals of Doddington	- 42	0	0	4	M
19	Westmoor North, E., the fifth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
20	Westmoor South, K. the eleventh Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Fourth Lot.		600	0	0	1	
		586	0	0	2	
		868	0	0	3	
		1503	0	0	4	
		214	0	0	5	
		231	0	0	7	

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### THE FIFTH LOT.

1	Haddenham Common	- D.	78	0	0	5	S
2	Streatham Common	- -	172	2	0	5	S
3	Sutton, South of Bedford River, next to the Fens of Hadden- ham and Wentworth	-	120	2	0	5	S
4	Westmoor South	- C.	400	0	0	2	S
5	Berry Mow Fen	- -	45	0	0	5	M
6	Ramsey Severals	- D.	8	0	0	7	M
7	Wicham Common, ten acres, and severals, A., four acres, in all	-	14	0	0	5	S
8	Chartresse Severals	- -	5	0	0	5	M
9	Dereham Commons	- -	200	0	0	3	S
10	Lakeingheath, Townmoor, &c. E.	200	0	0	3	S	
	Carried up	1243	0	0			

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought up	1243	0	0		
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	- D. 661		0	0	5	s
12 Knight's Fen in Hockwold and						
Redmore Grounds	- - 111		0	0	2	s
13 Throckenholt by Clowescross, A.						
next Clowescross	- - 5		0	0	6	N
14 Grunty Fen	- D. 100		0	0	4	s
15 Northwold Common, A., next to						
Stoake Bridge	- - 200		0	0	3	s
16 Westfen and Westfen Close	- 483		0	0	3	M
17 Whitemoor, C., next unto Wis-						
bich Fen	- - 300		0	0	5	M
18 Somersham Common	- D. 300		0	0	4	M
19 Middlemoor in Ramsey	A. 400		0	0	4	M
20 Conington Severals	- B. 81		0	0	3	M
21 Severals of Well and Welney	- 16		0	0	5	M
22 Westmoor North, G., the seventh						
Piece from Welney	- 50		0	0	3	M
23 Westmoor South, R., the fourth						
Piece from Welney	- 50		0	0	2	s

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4000 0 0

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Quantity of each Sort in the Fifth Lot.	{	561	0	0	2
		1214	0	0	3
		800	0	0	4
		1412	0	0	5
		5	0	0	6
		8	0	0	7

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		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	3858	0	0		
18	Severals of Doddington	- 42	0	0	4	M
19	Westmoor North, E., the fifth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
20	Westmoor South, K. the eleventh Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Fourth Lot.		600	0	0	1	
		586	0	0	2	
		866	0	0	3	
		1503	0	0	4	
		214	0	0	5	
		231	0	0	7	

## THE FIFTH LOT.

1	Haddenham Common	- D.	78	0	0	5	S
2	Streatham Common	-	172	2	0	5	S
3	Sutton, South of Bedford River, next to the Fens of Hadden- ham and Wentworth	-	120	2	0	5	S
4	Westmoor South	- C.	400	0	0	2	S
5	Berry Mow Fen	-	45	0	0	5	M
6	Ramsey Severals	- D.	8	0	0	7	N
7	Wicham Common, ten acres, and severals, A., four acres, in all	-	14	0	0		
8	Chartresse Severals	-	5				
9	Dereham Commons	-					
10	Lakeingheath, Townmoor, &c.						

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought up	1243	0	0		
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	- D.	661	0	0	5	s
12 Knight's Fen in Hockwold and						
Redmore Grounds	-	111	0	0	2	s
13 Throckenholt by Clowescross, A.						
next Clowescross	-	5	0	0	6	N
14 Grunty Fen	- D.	100	0	0	4	s
15 Northwold Common, A., next to						
Stoake Bridge	-	200	0	0	3	s
16 Westfen and Westfen Close	-	483	0	0	3	M
17 Whitemoor, C., next unto Wis-						
bich Fen	-	300	0	0	5	M
18 Somersham Common	- D.	300	0	0	4	M
19 Middlemoor in Ramsey	A.	400	0	0	4	M
20 Conington Severals	- B.	81	0	0	3	M
21 Severals of Well and Welney	-	16	0	0	5	M
22 Westmoor North, G., the seventh						
Piece from Welney	-	50	0	0	3	M
23 Westmoor South, R., the fourth						
Piece from Welney	-	50	0	0	2	s

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4000 0 0

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Quantity of each Sort in the Fifth Lot.	{	561	0	0	2
		1214	0	0	3
		800	0	0	4
		1412	0	0	5
		5	0	0	6
		8	0	0	7

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## THE SIXTH LOT.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levells.
1	Isleham Common -	B. 125	0	0	2	s
	Nearest the River -	- 125	0	0	3	s
2	Clattocks or Langridge in Wivelingham -	- 53	0	0	11	s
3	Babishume in Wivelingham -	- 13	3	0	11	s
4	Upware Farm in Wicken -	- 5	0	0	11	s
5	Lamas Grounds in Wicken, near Upware Farm -	- 23	1	0	5	s
6	Sutton Meadlands, next unto the grounds mentioned in the first Lot -	- 25	0	0	6	m
7	Westmoor South -	D. 400	0	0	2	s
8	Mepall Severals -	A. 73	0	0	4	m
9	Methwold, &c. -	D. 400	0	0	1	s
10	Townmoor, &c. -	F. 200	0	0	2	s
11	Whelpmoor, &c. -	E. 461	0	0	2	s
12	Ladus Fen -	- C. 115	0	0	4	m
13	Wereham, Wretton, and Stoake Common, next towards Stoake	336	0	0	2	s
14	Curffe and Gore in Chartresse, next Chartresse -	A. 200	0	0	4	m
15	Dikeamoor next Westwater -	- 156	0	0	3	m
16	Horsemoor in Doddington, A., exchanged for the like quantity in Bezeling Fen by the Commissioners, lying next Rough Westmoor in Chartresse -	- 200	0	0	3	m
17	Eusimoor, &c. -	- B. 500	0	0	3	m
18	Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Welney -	B. 200	0	0	2	s
Carried up			3611	0	0	

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought up	3611	0	0		
19	Severals of Well and Welney, B.	289	0	0	5	M
20	Westmoor North, C., the third					
	Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
21	Westmoor South, H., the thir-					
	teenth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		

Quantity of each Sort in the Sixth Lot.	400	0	0	1
	1772	0	0	2
	1031	0	0	3
	388	0	0	4
	312	1	0	5
	25	0	0	6
	71	3	0	11

## THE SEVENTH LOT.

1	Isleham Common	-	C.	115	0	0	2	S
	Nearest the River	-	-	115	0	0	3	S
2	Wilberton Commons and Severals			124	0	0	9	S
3	Rampton Commons	-	-	16	0	0	8	S
4	Westmoor South	-	E.	400	0	0	2	S
5	Mepall Severals	-	B.	75	0	0	4	M
6	Methwold, &c.	-	E.	400	0	0	1	S
7	Townmoor, &c.	-	G.	200	0	0	2	S

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Carried over 1445 0 0



## APPENDIX.

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levch.
Brought over	1445	0	0		
8 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen - - - A.	161	0	0	2	s
9 Mildenhall, Burnt Fen, Ely Shell and Shippey, A., 300 acres -	150	0	0	3	s
Next Shippey - - -	150	0	0	4	s
10 Sir Miles Sandys' imbanked Ground, C., next Crouchmoor	115	0	0	3	s
11 Sir Henry Willoughby's Severals in Southery, west of the river Ouse - - -	76	0	0	4	s
12 Cuffe and Gore in Chartresse, B. next Doddington -	200	0	0	4	m
13 Dikeamoor in Doddington A.	200	0	0	3	m
14 Horsemoor, B., two hundred acres, whereof exchanged eighty- two acres for eighty-two acres in Bezeling, by the Com- missioners - - -	200	0	0	3	m
15 Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Wel- ney, C., next unto the remain- ing part of Sedge Fen -	195	0	0	2	s
16 Eusimoor, &c. - D.	500	0	0	3	m
17 Middlemoor in Ramsey B.	400	0	0	3	m
18 Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals in Ramsey - A.	108	0	0	4	m
19 Westmoor North, K., the tenth Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	3	m
20 Westmoor South, O., the seventh Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	2	s
	4000	0	0		

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levells.
Quantity of each Sort in the Seventh Lot.	400	0	0	1	
	1121	0	0	2	
	1730	0	0	3	
	609	0	0	4	
	16	0	0	8	
	124	0	0	9	

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THE EIGHTH LOT.

1 Swaffham High Fen -	A.	200	0	0	3	s
2 Haddenham Severals, 138 acres,						
Mr. Fortrey -	-	99	3	32	8	s
Mr. Read -	-	38	0	8	11	s
3 Sutton, south of Bedford River -		32	0	0	5	s
4 Byall Fen -	A.	400	0	0	4	m
5 Mepall Commons -	-	53	0	0	4	m
6 Severals of Mepall -	C.	22	0	0	4	s
7 Helgay and Southrey Common	A.	300	0	0	3	s
8 Lakeingheath, &c. -	H.	200	0	0	1	s
9 Mildenhall, &c. B. three hundred acres	}	150	0	0	2	s
Nearest the river -		150	0	0	3	s
10 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen -	B.	261	0	0	2	s
11 Knight's Fen and Redmoor Grounds -	B.	115	0	0	2	s
12 Botsham, Horningsey, &c. -	B.	100	0	0	1	s
13 Northwold Common, by Stoake, north of Wissey -	-	29	0	0	7	s

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Carried over 2150 0 0

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	2150	0	0		
14	Langwood Fen in Chartresse	C. 320	0	0	4	M
15	West Fen and West Fen Close, B.	525	0	0	3	M
16	Middlemoor -	C. 400	0	0	3	M
17	Poolings in Hockwold	- 100	0	0	1	S
18	Sir John Watt's Grounds in Londoners' Fen -	- 352	1	0	4	M
19	Several of Doddington	- 42	3	0	4	M
20	Hen Middle, in Londoners' Fen -	10	0	0	4	M
21	Westmoor North, O., the fourteenth Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	3	M
22	Westmoreland South, C., the eighteenth Piece from Welney	50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		

Quantity of each Sort in the Eighth Lot.	400	0	0	1
	576	0	0	2
	162	0	0	3
	1200	0	0	4
	32	0	0	5
	29	0	0	7
	99	3	32	8
	38	0	8	11

## THE NINTH LOT.

	Acre.	Reeds.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
1 Denver Fen, south of Bedford River - -	- 124	0	0	7	s
2 Mr. Wendy's Ground in Chartresse -	- 234	0	0	6	M
3 Widdow's Severals in Mepal -	- 8	0	0	4	s
4 Bream Farm by Ely -	- 4	0	0	11	s
5 Westmoor South -	F. 200	0	0	2	s
6 Byall Fen -	B. 200	0	0	4	M
7 Coveney Severals -	B. 75	0	0	3	s
8 Helgay and Southery Common - -	B. 300	0	0	3	s
9 Mildenhall, &c., C., 300 acres -	150	0	0	2	s
Nearest the River -	- 150	0	0	9	s
10 Townmoor, &c. -	I. 200	0	0	1	s
11 A Several in Lakeingheath, by Cross Water -	- 8	0	0	3	s
12 Hockwold and Wilton Common - -	A. 253	0	0	2	s
13 Ladus Fen -	D. 115	0	0	4	M
14 Read's Fen in Helgay -	- 360	0	0	3	s
15 Swaffham Sedge Fen, 180 acres; part of High Fen, five acres; part of Croyle four acres -	189	0	0	1	s
16 West Fen and West Fen Close, C. -	500	0	0	3	M
17 Warboys Fen, Wistow Fen, Ramsay Eastmoor, and Pulver Fen, and Turfe Fen in Doddington, A. 500	0	0	2	M	
18 Denton Common -	- 156	0	0	4	M
Carried over		3726	0	0	
		2 x 2			



		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levies.
	Brought over.	3726	0	0		
19	Knobballs in Welney, south of Bedford River	-	19	0	0	2 s
20	Common Piece in Welney	-	134	0	0	1 s
21	Loveokes, a Several adjoining to Common Piece	-	21	0	0	2 s
22	Westmoor North, T., the ninth Piece from Welney	-	50	0	0	3 s
23	Westmoor South, T., the second Piece from Welney	-	50	0	0	2 s
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		4000	0	0		
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Quantity of each Sort in the Ninth Lot.		523	0	0	1	
		1193	0	0	2	
		1443	0	0	3	
		479	0	0	4	
		234	0	0	6	
		124	0	0	7	
		4	0	0	11	

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THE TENTH LOT.

1	Denver Fen, north of Bedford River	-	256	0	0	8 s
2	Severals of Denver, by the grounds of Well	-	4	0	0	9 s
3	Sir Henry Willoughby's Several, in Southery, East of Ouse	-	76	0	0	8 s
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Carried over	336	0	0		

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	336	0	0		
4	Lammas Grounds in Wicken, next to High Fen -	21	0	0	5	s
5	Mr. Barrow's imbanked ground in Wicken -	7	0	0	3	s
6	Stacks in Wivelingham, seven acres -	7	0	0	7	s
7	Croyle in Swaffham, A., next to the Hard Lands -	200	0	0	2	s
8	Burwell Common -	A. 247	0	0	2	s
9	Sir Edward Peyton's Sedge Seve- rals in Wicken -	14	0	0	2	s
10	Rowey in Somersham -	11	0	0	6	m
11	Helgay and Southery Common C.	300	0	0	3	s
12	Townmoor, &c. -	K. 200	0	0	1	s
13	Mildenhall, &c., D., 300 acres -	150	0	0	2	s
	Near the River -	150	0	0	3	s
14	Hockwold and Wilton Common B.	222	0	0	1	s
15	Littleport Severals -	41	0	0	4	s
16	Mr. Gibbon's Ground, called Warners, A., next Redmoors -	115	0	0	3	s
17	Botsham, Horningsey, &c. C.	100	0	0	1	s
18	Northwold Common -	B. 200	0	0	3	s
19	Normoor in Cartresse, A., next to Honey -	400	0	0	4	m
20	Warboys, &c. -	B. 500	0	0	3	m
21	Horsemoor -	D. 287	0	0	3	m
22	Sir Robert Bell's Grounds in Londoners' Fen -	136	2	0	4	m
23	Sir Lewis Tresham's Ground in Londoners' Fen -	93	1	0	4	m
24	Mr. Fincham's Grounds in Lon- doners' Fen -	11	3	0	4	m

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Carried over 3749 2 0

			Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
		Brought over	3749	2	0		
25	The Ground in Londoners' Fen						
	late Mr. Fincham's	-	13	1	0	4	m
26	Part of Sedge Fen in Welney,						
	north of Bedford River east-						
	ward	-	1	0	0	2	m
27	Part of Knobballs in Welney,						
	north of Bedford River	-	9	0	0	3	m
28	Three Severals in Welney, be-						
	tween Popham's Eau and New						
	Dike	-	65	0	0	5	m
29	Several of Doddington	-	62	1	0	4	m
30	Westmoor North, H., the eighth						
	Piece from Welney	-	50	0	0	3	m
31	Westmoor South, next Piece to						
	Welney	-	50	0	0	2	s

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4000 0 0

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Quantity of each Sort in the Tenth Lot.	522	0	0	1
	662	0	0	2
	1618	0	0	3
	758	0	0	4
	86	0	0	5
	11	0	0	6
	7	0	0	7
	332	0	0	8
	4	0	0	9

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## THE ELEVENTH LOT.

		Area	Reeds.	Foles.	Sorts.	Levels
1	Neatmoor in Upwell	A. 250	0	0	5	M
2	Middlemoor in Sutton	- 37	0	0	6	S
3	Cornests and Mr. Jetherell's Hamlets in Sutton	- 6	0	0	5	S
4	West Fen next to Sutton Mead- lands	- 76	0	0	5	M
5	Byall Fen	C. 400	0	0	4	M
6	Mepall Severals of Mr. Carters, by Furry Fen	- 18	0	0	4	M
7	Coveney Severals	- 56	0	0	3	S
8	Methwold, &c.	F. 488	0	0	2	S
9	Townmoor, &c.	- 200	0	0	1	S
10	Norney Farm	L. 79	0	0	3	S
11	Littleport Severals	B. 203	0	0	4	S
12	Roxam Common	- 94	0	0	8	S
13	Sutton in Holland, A., next unto Wride	- 115	0	0	5	N
14	Pymoor, near Witchford	- 152	0	0	4	S
15	Normoor in Chartresse	B. 400	0	0	4	M
16	The Middle in Doddington	- 200	0	0	4	M
17	Warboys, &c.	C. 500	0	0	3	M
18	Raveley Fen in Ramsey	- 229	0	0	3	M
19	Sir William Cockayne's Ground in Londoners' Fen	- 171	0	0	4	M
20	Part of Sedge Fen in Welney, lying north of Bedford River	- 10	0	0	2	S
21	Feltwell Severals	A. 216	0	0	1	S
22	Westmoor North, A., next Piece to Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M

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Carried over 3950 0 0



	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Brought over	3950	0	0		
23 Westmoor South, S., fourteenth piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	s
	<hr/> 4000	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Ele- venth Lot.	{ 416 0 0 1 548 0 0 2 1008 0 0 3 1544 0 0 4 484 0 0 5				

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### THE TWELFTH LOT.

1 Waterbeach Joist Fen, Wicken Lammas Ground, adjoining to Joist Fen, and the several grounds of Edwards, Peytons, and Daltons	-	- 250	0	0	4	s
2 Sutton Grounds, South of Bed- ford River, lying next to the grounds of Sutton of the first Lot	-	- 109	2	0	5	s
3 Part of Sutton West Fen	B.	10	2	0	5	m
4 Croyle in Swaffham	B.	200	0	0	2	s
5 One Several in Woodwalton	-	36	0	0	6	m
6 The Remainder of Sawtree Fen from the King's Part	-	6	2	0	1	m
		<hr/> 612	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 0		
		Carried over	612	2	0	

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	612	2	0		
7	Severals of Chartresse	A. 230	0	0	5	M
8	Helgay and Southery Common	D. 300	0	0	3	S
9	Townmoor, &c.	M. 200	0	0	2	S
10	Welpmoor, &c. F. Mr. Bradborne,					
	next the Drove-way	- 40	0	0	4	S
	The other	- 522	0	0	2	S
11	Ladus Fen	E. 115	0	0	4	M
12	Downham, in the Isle, Common,					
	and Several, 390 acres	- 302	0	0	1	S
	Whereof exchanged 88 Acres for					
	88 acres in Cowe Fen	- 88	0	0	7	S
13	Elme Common and Severals	- 250	0	0	4	M
14	West Fen and West Fen Close, D.					
	Mr. Bradborne and Pemberton	112	0	0	3	M
	The others	- 388	0	0	3	M
15	Stoney and Block Fen Common	D. 400	0	0	4	M
16	Somersham Common	E. 333	0	0	4	M
17	Langbeach Several in Upwell	- 7	2	0	5	M
18	Westmoor North, F., the sixth					
	piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
19	Westmoor South, M., the ninth					
	piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
		4000	0	0		

Quantity of each Sort in the  
Twelfth Lot.

308	2	0	1
972	0	0	2
738	0	0	3
1500	0	0	4
357	2	0	5
36	0	0	6
88	0	0	7

## THE THIRTEENTH LOT.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorta.	Levells.
1	Neatmoor by Upwell -	B. 250	0	0	4	M
2	Wicken High Fen, A., next to- wards Wicken -	120	0	0	7	S
3	Hale Fen, near Coveney -	180	0	0	3	S
4	Burwell Common -	B. 293	0	0	1	S
5	Sir Robert Heath's Several Grounds in Soham -	420	0	0	2	S
6	Lakeingheath Severals -	94	0	0	3	S
7	Townmoor, &c. -	N. 200	0	0	1	S
8	South Cloud, a Common of Lake- ingheath -	47	0	0	3	S
9	Mildenhall, &c., E., 300 acres -	150	0	0	2	S
	Nearest the River -	150	0	0	3	S
10	Sir Miles Sandys' imbanked Grounds, A., next Priest Houses	70	0	0	3	S
11	Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor, next Hale Fen -	45	0	0	5	S
12	Wereham, Wretton, and Stoake Common, B., next towards Dereham -	200	0	0	2	S
13	Stilton Common -	160	0	0	4	M
14	West Fen and West Fen Close	E. 500	0	0	3	M
15	Warboys, &c. -	D. 500	0	0	3	M
16	Upwood Fen, adjoining to Whit- tlesey Way -	405	0	0	2	M
17	Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals	B. 69	0	0	4	M
18	Severals of Welney -	20	2	10	5	M

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Carried over 3873 2 10

			Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	3873	2	10			
19	Severals of March and Dod-						
	dington - - -	26	1	30	4	M	
20	Westmoor North, C., Sixteenth						
	Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	3	M	
21	Westmoor South, E., Sixteenth						
	Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	2	S	
			<hr/>				
			4000	0	0		
			<hr/>				
Quantity of each Sort in the Thirteenth Lot.			493	0	0	1	
			1225	0	0	2	
			1636	0	0	3	
			505	1	30	4	
			20	2	10	5	
			120	0	0	7	

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 THE FOURTEENTH LOT.

1	Isleham Common -	D.	100	0	0	2	S
	Nearest the River -	-	100	0	0	3	S
2	Over Common -	-	171	0	0	11	S
3	Wicken Sedge Fen -	-	300	0	0	2	S
4	Mr. Barrow's Sedge Severals -	21	0	0	2	S	
5	Fordham Common -	-	27	0	0	2	S
6	Wicham Severals -	B.	56	0	0	5	S
7	Croylode in Somersham -	70	0	0	5	M	
8	Helgay and Southery Common E.	282	0	0	3	S	

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 Carried over 1127 0 0



## APPENDIX.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
	Brought over	1127	0	0		
9	Mildenhall, &c. 325 acres	- 162	2	0	2	s
	Nearest the River	- 162	2	0	2	s
10	Whelpemoor, &c.	- G. 454	0	0	2	s
11	Sutton in Holland	- B. 115	0	0	5	N
12	Horningsey High Fen	- 100	0	0	2	s
13	Burrowmoor in March	- 500	0	0	4	M
14	Dr. Sam's Horsemoor imbanked	- 225	0	0	3	M
15	Stoney Fen Severals	A. 300	0	0	3	M
16	Warboys, &c.	- E. 500	0	0	4	M
17	Ramsey Common by Delph Dike	108	0	0	4	M
18	Feltwell Severals	- 146	0	0	1	s
19	Westmoor North, S., the Eighteenth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
20	Westmoor South, D., the Seventeenth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	s
		4000	0	0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Fourteenth Lot.		146	0	0	1	
		1214	2	0	2	
		1119	2	0	3	
		1108	0	0	4	
		241	0	0	5	
		171	0	0	11	

## THE FIFTEENTH LOT.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
1	Swaffham High Fen -	B. 200	0	0	4	s
2	Hempshall in Wivelingham -	59	0	0	10	s
3	Sutton West Fen -	C. 117	0	0	5	m
4	Wisbich Common -	B. 313	0	0	4	n
5	Burwell Common -	C. 160	0	0	2	s
6	Great Metlam, Little Metlam, and the Hasse in Soham	A. 500	0	0	2	s
7	Townmoor, &c. -	G. 200	0	0	1	s
8	Mildenhall, &c., G., 300 acres -	150	0	0	2	s
	Nearest the River -	150	0	0	3	s
9	Thorney Farm by Stuntney -	47	0	0	4	s
10	Quaney Farm -	12	0	0	4	s
11	Richard Ward's Severals in Little- port by Prat's Weare -	3	0	0	4	s
12	Severals of Welney Chapel in Littleport -	1	0	0	4	s
13	Sutton in Holland -	C. 95	0	0	5	n
14	Mr. Gibbon's Ground in South- ery, lying by Priest Houses -	20	0	0	5	s
15	Shevens in Well, next the town of Upwel -	100	0	0	4	m
16	White Fen in Swaffham, next Botsham High Fen -	200	0	0	1	s
17	Normoor in Chartresse	D. 410	0	0	4	m
18	Stoney Fen Severals -	B. 300	0	0	4	m
19	Warboys, &c. -	F. 500	0	0	4	m
20	Methwold Severals, 357 acres,	257	0	0	2	s
	Mr. Moore -	100	0	0	4	s

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Carried over 3888 0 0

				Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levies.
	Brought over	3688		0	0			
21	Severals of Mr. Strange, in Londoners' Fen	-	-	12	0	0	4	n
22	Westmoor North, L., the Eleventh Piece from Welney	-	-	50	0	0	3	n
23	Westmoor South, N., Eighth Piece from Welney	-	-	50	0	0	2	s
				<hr/>				
				4000	0	0		

Quantity of each Sort in the Fifteenth Lot.	400	0	0	1
	1117	0	0	2
	200	0	0	3
	1998	0	0	4
	232	0	0	5
	58	0	0	10

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### THE SIXTEENTH LOT.

1	Waterbeach, &c.	-	B.	250	0	0	4	s
2	Byall Fen, south of Bedford River, next to Oxwillow Lode			100	0	0	2	s
3	Sutton West Fen	-	D.	20	0	0	5	n
4	Wisbich Common, lying between Moreton's Leam and the Twenty-five Foot Drain	-		424	2	0	1	n
5	The Remainder of Holme Fen, from the Earl of Portland's Part	-		49	0	0	6	n

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Carried over 843 2 0

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Brought over	843	2	0		
6 Helgay and Southery Common - -	F. 300	0	0	3	s
7 Lakeingheath Townmoors	P. 295	0	0	1	s
8 Mildenhall, &c., I., 300 acres	- 150	0	0	1	s
Nearest the River -	- 150	0	0	3	s
9 Feltwell South Fen and Mow					
Fen - -	C. 166	0	0	2	s
10 Sutton in Holland -	D. 115	0	0	5	m
11 Maney Common Several	- 250	0	0	4	m
12 Narmoor in Chartresse	C. 400	0	0	4	m
13 Great Bynnamoor and Graye's					
Fen in Doddington, next to					
Graye's Fen -	- 294	0	0	2	m
14 Stoney Fen Severals	C. 425	0	0	4	m
15 Warboys, &c. -	G. 500	0	0	3	m
16 Several of Doddington	- 11	2	0	4	m
17 Westmoor North, R., the Seventeenth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	m
18 Westmoor South, L., the Twelfth Piece from Welney -	- 50	0	0	2	s

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4000 0 0

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Quantity of each Sort in the Sixteenth Lot.	719	2	0	1
	760	0	0	2
	1000	0	0	3
	1336	2	0	4
	135	0	0	5
	49	0	0	6

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## THE SEVENTEENTH LOT.

		Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
1	Waterbeach, &c. -	C. 201	3	0	4	s
2	Byall Fen South, next towards Mepall -	- 100	0	0	2	s
3	Fidwell Fen in Streatham -	60	0	0	4	s
4	Little Sheford in Wivelingham -	7	1	0	11	s
5	By Erith Sluice -	2	0	0	11	s
6	Wisbich Common -	A. 473	0	0	4	N
7	Great Metlam, &c. -	B. 500	0	0	2	s
8	Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen -	D. 269	0	0	2	s
9	Hockwold and Wilton Com- mon -	C. 293	0	0	1	s
10	Ladus Fen -	F. 105	0	0	4	M
11	Mr. Pratt's Severals in Hockwold	10	0	0	2	s
12	Shevens, next towards Welney -	100	0	0	4	M
13	White Fen, next towards the Hard Lands -	211	0	0	1	s
14	Witch Fen and Stowe Fen in March -	200	0	0	2	M
15	Dikeamoor -	B. 200	0	0	3	M
16	Stoney Fen Severals	D. 300	0	0	3	M
17	Warboys, &c. -	H. 500	0	0	3	M
18	Mr. Payton's Severals by Hobb's Dike in March -	133	0	20	4	M
19	Peter Williams's adjoining Seve- rals -	34	2	10	4	M
20	White Fen, A., Several by Ben- wick -	119	1	0	3	M

---

Carried over 3818 7 30

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Brought over	3818	7	30		
Browne's Fen by Benwick, a Several of Dr. Sam's	- 50	0	20	4	M
severals of Well and Welney	- 30	3	30	5	M
Vestmoor North, V., Twentieth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	3	M
Vestmoor South, B., the Nineteenth Piece from Welney	- 50	0	0	2	S
	<hr/> 4000	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0		
Quantity of each Sort in the Seventeenth Lot.	504	0	0	1	
	1129	0	0	2	
	1169	1	0	3	
	1157	2	10	4	
	30	3	30	5	
	9	1	0	11	

## THE EIGHTEENTH LOT.

Jeatmoor	-	C. 250	0	0	4	M
Vicken High Fen	-	30	0	0	5	S
Langmoor and Boatsgangs in Streatham	-	17	2	0	6	S
utton West Fen	-	E. 73	2	0	5	M
Visbich Common	-	C. 473	0	0	4	N
oham Commons in Great Metlam	-	569	0	0	2	S
Two Severals of Soham	-	9	0	0	6	S

Carried over 1422 0 0

2 L

	Acres.
Brought over 1422	
8 Hockwold and Wilton Com- mon - - -	D. 182
9 Mildenhall, &c., H., 300 acres -	150
Nearest the River - -	150
10 Mr. Gibbon's Grounds, call War- ner's - - -	B. 75
11 Throckenholt - - -	B. 40
12 Ashwell Moor by Coveney, the South-west part - -	271
13 Rough Westmoor in Chart- resse - - -	A. 300
14 Horsemoor - - -	C. 200
15 Warboys, &c. - - -	I. 500
16 Middlemoor - - -	D. 300
17 Great Bynnamoor and Gray's Fen, next towards the River of Nene - - -	200
18 Marmound, a Several in Upwell -	27
19 The Several Grounds in Well, by News Cote - - -	17
20 Severals of Doddington - - -	65
21 Westmoor North, P., Fifteenth Piece from Welney - -	50
22 Westmore South, F., Fifteenth Piece from Welney - -	50
	4000
Quantity of each Sort in the Eigh- teenth Lot.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 4em; margin-right: 5px;">{</div> <div> 1151 1546 1088 121 95 </div> </div>

## THE NINETEENTH LOT.

	Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
1 Waterbeach Fen by Garden Tree	112	0	0	7	s
2 Cottenham Common -	240	0	0	9	s
3 Sutton in the Meadlands, next towards West Fen	18	0	0	6	m
4 Wisbich Common - D.	473	0	0	4	n
5 Mildenhall, &c., K., 300 acres	150	0	0	2	s
Nearest the River -	150	0	0	3	s
6 Whelpmoor, &c. - H.	760	0	0	2	s
7 Mr. Tower's Crouchmoor in Littleport -	70	0	0	3	s
8 Part of Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor -	10	0	0	3	s
9 Trocken Holt - C.	35	0	0	6	n
10 Ashwell Moor, next to Downham West Fen -	152	0	0	3	s
11 Rough Westmoor in Chartresse, B. next to Beezing's Fen	296	0	0	4	m
12 Dikeamoore - C.	200	0	0	3	m
13 Warboys, &c. - K.	550	0	0	3	m
14 Middlemoor in Ramsey E.	375	0	0	4	m
15 Feltwell Severals - C.	309	0	0	1	s
16 Westmoor North, I., Ninth Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	3	m
17 Westmoor South, Q., Fifth Piece from Welney -	50	0	0	2	s
	<hr/> 4000	<hr/> 0	<hr/> 0		



# APPENDIX.

	Acres.
	309
	960
	1182
Quantity of each Sort in the Nine-	1144
teenth Lot.	53
	112
	240

## THE TWENTIETH LOT.

1 Thorney Knare Fen	-	- 8900
2 Westmoor, north of Bedford		
River, B., the Second Piece		
from Welney	-	- 50
3 Westmoor South, L., Tenth Piece		
from Welney	-	- 50

4000

Quantity of each Sort in the	50
Twentieth Lot.	3950

## E THREE THOUSAND ACRES OVERPLUS.

	Aeres.	Roods.	Poles.	Sorts.	Levels.
Woodwalton Common -	937	0	0	2	M
Higney Grounds -	100	0	0	3	M
Part of Holme Fen -	968	0	0	6	M
Part of Byall Fen, next to Maney -	1000	0	0	4	M
	3000	0	0		

Quantity of each Sort in the Over- plus.	937	0	0	2
	100	0	0	3
	1000	0	0	4
	968	0	0	6

in pursuance of an Act of this present Parliament,  
 titled, "An act for the Taxing and Assessing of the  
 Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the  
 Fens," we whose names are here subscribed, thereby  
 constituted and appointed (with others) surveyors and  
 assessors of eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of ninety-  
 thousand acres within the said Level, having first  
 taken the oath prescribed by the said act for the faithful  
 discharge of the trust reposed in us, for the surveying,  
 measuring, dividing and rating the said eighty-three thou-  
 sand acres, do make our return of this survey made by us

consisting of eleven several degrees and sorts, into the Fen Office, to be taxed and rated accordingly; viz. that the first sort being taxed at four pence per acre, the second sort be taxed at eight pence per acre, and so every degree to be gradually rated and taxed; whereby the eleventh degree at the said proportion will be three shillings eight pence upon such tax proposed as aforesaid, and so proportionably for any greater or lesser sum that shall be laid and imposed. And to each schedule (being in number eleven together annexed) have subscribed our names this fifteenth day of August in the twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoque Domini, 1668.

EDWARD PARTHERICHE.

SAMUEL FORTREY.

RICHARD MARRYOTT.

JOHN MINGAY.

ANTHONY HAMMOND.

MARKE LE PLA.

JOHN BRIDGMAN.

## No. XXII.

## INCLOSURE PREVENTION ACT.

1684.

Anno Regni JACOBI II. Regis.

*An Act for repealing a Clause for dividing of Commons in an Act of Parliament made in the Fifteenth Year of King Charles the Second, intituled, An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level.*

WHEREAS in and by an act of parliament made in the fifteenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King Charles the Second, of ever blessed memory, intituled An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, there is a proviso, and it was enacted, that it should and might be lawful for any person or persons bodies politick or corporate, their heirs and successors, that were or should be lords of manors, or have right of common in the commons and wastes in the said Level, or within any town, parish or place into which the works of draining or any of them did extend, to improve, set out and inclose, divide and sever, such proportion or proportions as to them should or might severally and respectively belong, or be adjudged and allotted unto them in severalty by certain commissioners appointed in the said act, and as they should adjudge and determine, as by the said clause in the said act more fully appears.

Recital of 15  
Car. 2.

Clause there-  
in giving  
lords of ma-  
nors power  
to inclose and  
divide com-  
mons.

And whereas since the passing of the said act several lords of manors, and others who had right of common in the said commons and wastes, did divide and take their said shares or proportions thereof.

In pursuance  
thereof many  
lords have  
divided and  
inclosed.



Taking and cutting commons into small pieces found to be very prejudicial;

And whereas such taking and cutting of the said commons and wastes into small pieces is since found to be very prejudicial to the owners and country, being a great waste of ground in division, which are hard to be kept as fences between party and party, the roadways and passages through such commons as set forth being very low, and generally in bad ground, not passable or well to be amended, whereby such divisions are of little value.

occasions decrease of stock and houses.

And whereas it occasions great diminution of stock and decay of houses, many persons selling their shares of common from the house it belongs unto, to a greater impoverishment and increase of the poor; to prevent any further inconveniences thereby, be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said clause in the said act for such dividing and inclosing, shall be and is hereby repealed and made void, to all intents and purposes; and that no more divisions or inclosures shall be hereafter made of the said wastes and commons therein mentioned pursuant to the said act; any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Said clause repealed.

Inclosures already made and certified to be enjoyed by the owners.

Provided always, and it is further enacted, That all inclosures already made, and certified into the Petty-bag Office pursuant to the said act, shall be held and enjoyed by the owners thereof, as fully to all intents and purposes as if this act had not been made.

Agreements for stint of cattle confirmed by decrees of Chancery.

And whereas several persons and townships finding the inconveniencies of dividing and cutting aforesaid, did come unto agreements and bound themselves not to divide, but to feed and order the said commons and wastes by way of an equal stint of cattle in a like proportion, to their great advantage and improvement; and those agreements have been confirmed by the decrees of his Majesty's High Court of Chancery:

Be it therefore enacted, That all such agreements so Hereby ratified made and confirmed by the decrees as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby ratified and binding to all such person or persons who were parties consenting to the same, and all claiming by, from or under them, or any of them, and according as in the said decrees are expressed and contained.

And whereas divers persons have had decrees and adjudications for inclosures and allotments within the said Level already made, by commissioners in the said act appointed pursuant to the same act, have neglected to get the said decrees and adjudications to be signed, sealed and certified in the Petty-bag Office, as by the said act is directed; it is now further provided and enacted, That so many of the said decrees and adjudications already made and imperfect as aforesaid, which shall be made perfect by being signed and sealed by the said commissioners, and certified into the Petty-bag Office in such manner as by the said act is appointed, before the four and twentieth day of June, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty-six, shall be good and valid in law to all intents and purposes as if the same had been so perfected at the time of making this act, and all inclosures and allotments by virtue thereof shall be enjoyed by the respective persons interested as if this act had never been made. And all such of the said decrees, which shall not be perfected by the said time in manner and form aforesaid, shall be utterly void and null to all intents and purposes whatsoever, and all inclosures by virtue thereof shall be thrown open as if such decrees or adjudications had never been made; any thing in this act, or in any law, statute or usage, contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Decrees and adjudications for inclosures, &c. already made, and not returned into the Petty-bag Office, if returned before June 24, 1686, to be good;

otherwise to be null and void.



## No. XXIII.

1750.

## FIRST STYLE ACT.

24 GEO. II. c. 23.

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*An Act for the regulating the Commencement of  
and for correcting the Calendar now in Use.*

AND be it further enacted by the authority  
That the several meetings of the Court of Ses-  
terms fixed for the Court of Exchequer in Scot-  
April meeting of the governor, bailiffs, and com-  
of the company of conservators of the Great Le-  
Fens, and the holding and keeping of all mar-  
and marts, whether for the sale of goods or cat-  
the hiring of servants, or for any other purpo-  
are either fix'd to certain nominal days of the  
depending upon the beginning, or any certain  
month, and all courts incident or belonging to,  
holden or kept with any such fairs or marts, fix-  
certain times as aforesaid, shall not from and  
said second day of September, be continued  
according to the nominal days of the month,  
of the beginning of any month, to be computed  
to the said new calendar; but that from an-  
said second day of September, The said Courts  
and Exchequer, the said April meeting, an-  
markets, fairs and marts as aforesaid, and  
incident or belonging thereto, shall be holde-  
upon, or according to the same natural day

according to which the same should have been so kept or holden in case this act had not been made; that is to say, eleven days later than the same would have happened, according to the nominal days of the said new supputation of time, by which the commencement of each month, and the nominal days thereof, are anticipated or brought forward, by the space of eleven days; any thing in this act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

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*Rule for finding the Day on which the Annual April Meeting of the Corporation at Ely is to be held.*

By the 20th of Charles 2. the first day of the April meeting is fixed on the Wednesday after the first Sunday in April; by 2 Geo. 2. C. 23. the April meeting is to be holden eleven days later than the same would have happened according to the nominal days of the new supputation. Therefore take the first eleven days out of April, look for the first Sunday after the eleventh day, and the Wednesday after that Sunday will be the first day of the April meeting. As for example, for the year 1762, the first Sunday after the eleventh falls on the 18th of April, the Wednesday after that Sunday is the 21st, which will be the first day of the April Meeting for that year.

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## No. XXIV.

1751.

## SECOND STYLE ACT.

25 GEO II. c. 30.

*Extract from An Act to amend an Act made in the last Session of Parliament, intituled, An Act for regulating the Commencement of the Year, and for correcting the Calendar now in the Use.*

24 Geo. 2. c. 23.

WHEREAS by an act of parliament made in the twenty fourth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for regulating the Commencement of the year, and for correcting the Calendar now in Use," it is among other things enacted, That the natural day next immediately following the second day of September, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, shall be reckoned and accounted to be the fourteenth day of September, omitting for that time only, the eleven intermediate nominal days of the common calendar, and that the days immediately succeeding shall be called, reckoned and numbered forwards in numerical order, from the said fourteenth day of September, and that all meetings and assemblies of any bodies politick or corporate, either for the election of any officers or members thereof, or for any such officers entering upon the execution of their respective offices, or for any other purpose which by law, charter, custom or usage, are to be holden on any fixed or certain day of any month, shall, from and after the said second day of

September, be holden and kept upon or according to the same respective nominal days and times whereon the same are then to be holden ; but which should be computed according to the new method of numbering and reckoning the days of the Calendar, as therein mentioned, as by the said act may more fully appear : and whereas by the charters, customs or usage of some cities, boroughs, towns or other communities, or bodies politick or corporate, the election of officers, or the entrance of officers on the execution of their offices, or the doing of some other corporate acts, may be fixed or required to be on some certain nominal day or days of the said month of September, falling between the second and fourteenth days of the same month, which said nominal days are by the said act required to be dropt or omitted for this present year, so that there will not in fact be any nominal days between the said second and fourteenth days of the said month of September for this present year, whereon such corporate acts can be done ; and doubts have arisen, whether such corporate acts may be done at all, without a special provision for that purpose by authority of parliament ; and inconveniencies may possibly ensue for want thereof ; be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all such bodies politick and corporate as aforesaid, and all and every the officers and members thereof, and they and every of them are hereby required to do all such acts, as by any law, charter or usage are appointed or required to be done on any of the nominal days of or in the said month of September, which by the said recited act are directed to be dropt or omitted for this present year, upon the same natural day or days of this year only, as such acts would,

The election of officers, &c. to be done upon the same natural days of this year only, as before.



might or ought to be done, in case the said recited act had not been made; and that all acts so done in pursuance hereof shall be deemed, and are hereby declared and enacted to be as good and effectual to all intents and purposes, as if the same were done on any of the nominal days so dropt or omitted as aforesaid; any law, statute, charter, custom or usage to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

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## No. XXV.

1753.

### FIRST NORTH LEVEL ACT.

Anno vicesimo septimo GEORGH II. Regis.

*An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a Debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said North Level; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto in the Manor of Crowland.*

Preamble, reciting clauses in act 15 Car. 2.

WHEREAS by an act of parliament made and passed in the fifteenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King

Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level," reciting, That Francis Earl of Bedford, according to a law of Sewers made at King's Lynn in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King Charles the First, had undertaken the draining of the said Great Level therein mentioned to be situate within the counties of Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge and Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely, and therein particularly bounded and described: and that he was to have for his recompence ninety-five thousand acres of the ground within the said Level, with convenient highways and passages to the same, and the new river, cuts and drains to be made by the said Earl and his assigns, and the banks of the same, and the forelands in the inside of the said banks not to exceed sixty foot in breadth; and that William Earl of Bedford, son and heir of the said Earl Francis, with divers of his adventurers and participants, had proceeded in the compleating and finishing the said works; but that the same could not be preserved without constant care, great charge and orderly government; it was therefore (amongst other things) enacted, That the said William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as therein after is contained, should be a body politick and corporate in deed and name, and have succession for ever, by the name of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, with power to lay and levy taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres only, for support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, and do all other things in order to the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level and works made, and to be made, in such manner as therein is mentioned; and taking notice, that by the said Law of

and Law of  
Sewers in  
6 Car. 1.



Sewers twelve thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety five thousand acres, were designed and intended to his said late Majesty King Charles the First, and had been set forth and allotted by bounds in severalty; and that his said late Majesty had granted two thousand acres, part thereof, to Jerome Earl of Portland, his heirs and assigns; and that the said Earl had sold about one thousand five hundred acres, part of the said two thousand acres, to several persons, and had conveyed the remaining five hundred acres to Benjamin Weston, Esq.; on several trusts; it was thereby further enacted, That the said two thousand acres, or such other lands of equal value as should be set forth in exchange of the same, should be and were thereby vested, settled and established in the said several persons, their heirs and assigns respectively, to whom the said Earl of Portland had conveyed the same, to be held of the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, in free and common soccage, subject nevertheless with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, in equal proportion to all taxes and charges necessary and conducing to the preservation of the said Great Level from drowning; and it was thereby further enacted, That the eighty-three thousand acres, remainder of the said ninety-five thousand acres, with the said ways, passages, new rivers, cuts, drains, banks and forelands, over and above the said ten thousand acres, residue of the said twelve thousand acres which were allotted in severalty, and of which his said late Majesty was in possession, were thereby vested and settled in the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and their successors, in trust for the said William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as is therein after limited and provided, and according to such parts and proportions as they respectively

then held and enjoyed, or by virtue of the said act ought to hold and enjoy, subject and liable likewise to the payment of all taxes and charges as aforesaid, to be held of the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty, in free and common soccage; and the said ten thousand acres were thereby vested in his then present Majesty, and his assigns, subject and liable with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to the same taxes and charges before specified; and it is thereby further enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation for the time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or their successors, or any of them, to be two; for maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, by convenient out-falls to the sea, should for ever thereafter be and were thereby made and constituted Commissioners of Sewers for and of the said Great Level of the Fens; and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, and their successors, or any of them, to be two, are thereby enabled and empowered from thenceforth, to use and exercise the power and authority of Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, and of the works made and to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying the waters of the said Great Level by convenient outfalls to the sea, in such manner and with such other powers, jurisdictions and authorities as are therein mentioned and contained: and whereas by another act of parliament and 20 Car. 2. made and passed in the twentieth year of his said late Majesty King Charles the Second, intituled "An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens," after reciting in part the last recited act, and that the way therein mentioned of raising draining taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres by an equal acre-rate had been found



inconvenient, it was enacted, That all taxes thereafter to be set and imposed for the maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, should be from time to time assessed and taxed by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or their successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs for the time being, or any of them, to be two, upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, part and parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, by a gradual acre-tax of different sorts and values of lands, to be received, paid and levied by such ways and means as in the said recited act are provided; and that the said eighty-three thousand acres, for raising taxes for support and maintenance of the Great Level, should not be rated or assessed otherwise or in any other manner than according to a gradual acre-tax of different sorts and degrees, and according to the respective values and rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated, as is therein after appointed: and it was thereby further enacted, That when and so often as the sum of six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings and one penny half-penny should be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres, that then the said twelve thousand acres should be rated and assessed at fifteen pence the acre, and according to that proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser sum than six thousand one hundred and ten pounds seven shillings and one penny half-penny, to be received, paid and levied, together with penalties, in such and the like manner as the taxes set and imposed, or to be set and imposed, upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, are thereby provided for to be received, paid and levied: and to the end that the said eighty-three thousand acres might be more equally rated by a gradual acre-tax, not under the number of seven sorts, it was thereby further enacted, That certain persons in the same act named, or any three or more of them, were thereby constituted and

appointed to be surveyors and valuers of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and were, within the time therein limited, to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into such number of sorts or degrees of land, not under the number of seven sorts and degrees, and to rate and tax such degrees, and digest the same into schedules in writing, and make returns thereof, upon their oaths, into the Fen Office, in such manner as in and by the said act is mentioned and directed: and whereas the several persons, by the said last recited act appointed to be surveyors or valuers, valued and set out the said eighty-three thousand acres, according to the directions thereby given, into eleven different sorts or degrees of land, to be rated and taxed in manner following; that is to say, for a single tax, four pence per acre on the first sort of land; eight pence per acre on the second sort; and so increasing four pence upon every sort, the eleventh sort to be taxed at three shillings and eight pence; and all greater or less sums which the said corporation should have occasion to raise, were to be rated and assessed in the like proportions; which valuations of the said surveyors were returned by them into the Fen Office, as by the said last mentioned act was directed; and the said eighty-three thousand acres have always since been taxed according to the degrees and proportions thereby set out and allotted, calling a tax of four pence on the first sort of land, and increasing on the ten other sorts in manner aforesaid, a single tax; five pence a tax and quarter; six pence a tax and half; seven pence a tax and three quarters; and eight pence a double tax: and whereas at a court of the said corporation, held the tenth day of March one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said corporation declared that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several names of the North Level, Middle Level and South Level; and that all that part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, which lay between the north

Court of corporation held 10 March 1697.



Debt of corporation at Lady-day 1728.

side of Morton's Leam and the south side of the Welland River, should be accounted that part of the ninety-five thousand acres lying within the North Level; and whereas the said corporation, in order to support and preserve the several works for draining the said Great Level, were obliged to borrow several sums of money on bonds under their common seal, and by that means, at Lady-day one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, had contracted debts, amounting in the whole to the principal sum of seventeen thousand one hundred and fifty pounds; and some new works being necessary for better draining the said North Level, part of the said Great Level, by indenture bearing date the twenty-ninth day of May one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and made or mentioned to be made between the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens of the one part, and the most Noble William Duke of Devonshire, guardian of the most Noble Wriothesley then Duke of Bedford, a minor, and the Right Honourable Henry then Earl of Lincoln of the other part; after reciting the said act of the fifteenth year of his late Majesty King Charles the Second, and that the said Great Level of the Fens was then distinguished by the several names of the North Level, the Middle Level and the South Level; and that such part of the said Great Level, as was distinguished by the name of the North Level, did contain about forty thousand acres of land, of which there were about eleven thousand six hundred acres of land subject to the said taxes, and that the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln were owners and proprietors of great part thereof; and further reciting, that the said Duke of Devonshire as guardian of the said Duke of Bedford, and the said Earl of Lincoln, for the preservation of the respective estates of the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln in the said North Level, did in the then last

summer actually lay out and expend the sum of three thousand four hundred pounds the monies of the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln in proportion to their said respective estates, in regaining and keeping open the outfall for the waters of the said North Level to sea, and in doing several other necessary and material works, which had tended greatly towards the draining and preservation of all the estates in the said North Level; but by reason of the many and frequent floods which had of late years happened, and the insufficiency of the banks and works of the said North Level to resist the same, and particularly by reason of the weakness and lowness of the bank on the north side of Moreton's Leam Wash next the said North Level, the greatest part of the lands within the said Level had then lately been and were subject to be drowned, so that little or no profit could be made thereof, nor could the said North Level be effectually drained or secured for the future, unless the said north bank was to be enlarged and strengthened; and therefore the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty had resolved to make a canal in the said wash, and other works there, for strengthening and enlarging the said north bank, the charge of all which would amount at least to six thousand six hundred pounds; and further reciting, that the said Duke of Devonshire, on the said Duke of Bedford's behalf and with his consent, and the said Earl of Lincoln, at the request of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, had agreed to advance the said six thousand six hundred pounds for the purposes aforesaid, in proportion to their said respective estates in the said North Level, and that the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty had agreed that the taxes, revenues and rents annually laid and arising upon and out of the lands in the said North Level only, should be made a security for repayment as well of the said three thousand four hundred pounds then already laid out, as for the said six



thousand six hundred pounds to be laid out, and interest at the rate of four pounds per centum per annum, and were desirous and had proposed that the said Duke of Devonshire and Earl of Lincoln should have not only the direction and disposal of the said six thousand six hundred pounds in making the said canal and other new works, but also that the said Duke of Devonshire and Earl of Lincoln, during the minority of the said Duke of Bedford, and afterwards the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, their respective heirs and assigns, should have the direction, disposal and management of the said taxes, revenues and rents of the said North Level to be by them employed and disposed in and about the repairing and maintaining the works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual draining, securing and preserving of the said North Level, and for and towards the payment of the said principal sums of three thousand four hundred pounds and six thousand six hundred pounds with interest as aforesaid, until the said principal sums of three thousand four hundred pounds and six thousand six hundred pounds and interest should be fully paid and satisfied; it is witnessed, that in consideration of the premisses, and for securing the repayment of the said several sums of three thousand four hundred pounds and six thousand six hundred pounds and interest as aforesaid, and for the better enabling the said Dukes of Devonshire and Bedford and the said Earl of Lincoln to complete their good designs of effectually draining, securing and preserving the said North Level, by making the said canal and other works, which the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty were sensible would be of great benefit and advantage to all the estates in the same Level, they the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, for themselves and their successors, did covenant and agree to and with the said Dukes of

Devonshire and Bedford and the said Earl of Lincoln respectively, and their respective heirs and assigns, that should and might be lawful to and for the said Duke of Devonshire and Earl of Lincoln, their agents or servants duly authorized, during the minority of the said Duke of Bedford, and after the said Duke of Bedford should have attained his age of twenty-one years, and should have confirmed that agreement, for the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, their respective heirs and assigns, their agents or servants duly authorized, without the interruption or denial of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, their successors, to ask for and demand, have, receive and take of and from the receiver general for the time being of the said corporation yearly, and every year, as the same should become due, and be paid to the said receiver general, so much and such part of the said taxes as should be annually laid on the said ninety-five thousand acres, as should be the share and proportion of the lands within the said North Level liable thereto, together with all other the rents and revenues whatsoever of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty in the said North Level, including the share and proportion of the taxes laid upon the lands within the said North Level for that present year, and the said rents and revenues due and payable for the same time: and it was thereby declared and agreed, that the yearly sum of one hundred pounds, payable by the heirs or assigns of Sir Charles Orby ceased, to the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and their successors should be esteemed and taken as part of the said revenue arising within the said North Level; and the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty did thereby authorize, empower and require the said receiver general for the time being to pay yearly, and every year, as the same should become due and be paid to him, all the said taxes, rents and revenues of the said North Level, unto the said Dukes of Devonshire and



Bedford and Earl of Lincoln respectively, their respective heirs and assigns, or their servants or agents, without any further or other warrant to be had from the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty for that purpose: provided, that the said receiver general for the time being should retain and keep so much of the said taxes, rents and revenues of the said North Level, as should be sufficient to satisfy and discharge the yearly interest of the principal sum of two thousand pounds, thentofore taken up upon the common seal of the said corporation for the service of the said Level, until the principal sum of two thousand pounds should be paid off and discharged: and it was thereby declared and agreed, that the said taxes, rents and revenues, so to be paid to the said Dukes of Devonshire and Bedford and Earl of Lincoln respectively, their heirs or assigns, should be retained, employed, applied and disposed of, in the first place, for repairing and maintaining all the works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual draining and preservation of the same Level, and then for paying and satisfying to the said Dukes of Devonshire and Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, their respective executors, administrators and assigns, according to their respective proportions and shares, interest after the rate of four pounds per centum per annum, for the said several sums of three thousand four hundred pounds and six thousand six hundred pounds, and then to take, retain and keep the surplus money for and towards paying off and sinking the said sums of three thousand four hundred pounds, and six thousand six hundred pounds, in such proportions and by such payments as should be reasonable and convenient, until the same should be fully paid off and satisfied. And whereas the said Duke of Bedford, or the said Duke of Devonshire as his guardian, and the said Earl of Lincoln laid out and expended the

said sum of six thousand six hundred pounds, in pursuance of the said agreement, in the works therein mentioned, and by virtue of and under the said agreement, the said Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, and their representatives, have ever since continued in the receipt of the taxes, rents and revenues of the said North Level, but have been obliged to apply the greatest part thereof for and towards the several works for draining and preserving the said North Level; so that at Lady-day one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three the sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds, eleven shillings and nine pence was due for principal and interest of the said several sums of three thousand four hundred pounds and six thousand six hundred pounds, five sixth parts whereof is due and owing to the most Noble John now Duke of Bedford, as executor of the last will of the said Wriothesley late Duke of Bedford; and the remaining sixth part thereof is due and owing to the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Lincoln as administrator of the said Henry late Earl of Lincoln: and whereas the sum of two thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds, part of the debt owing by the said corporation at Lady-day one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, was due and owing to the said Wriothesley late Duke of Bedford, who afterwards in and by his last will and testament forgave and discharged the same, which reduced the debt contracted by the said corporation before the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight to fourteen thousand three hundred pounds; and whereas ever since the making and executing the said recited agreement, the said Dukes of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln have supported and maintained the works, banks and drains of the said North Level, and the said corporation have not been at any charge or expence in or about the same, but the said corporation have since the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-



eight borrowed several large sums of money on bonds, under their common seal, to the amount in the whole of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty pounds, all which has been by them laid out and expended in and about the said Middle and South Levels, and for supporting and preserving the banks, drains and works thereof; so that the said corporation is now indebted in the several sums of money following, that is to say, in the said sum of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, contracted before the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on account of the whole of the said Great Level; the said sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds eleven shillings and nine pence, contracted since the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on account of and particularly charged upon the said North Level; and the said sum of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty pounds, contracted since the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, amounting together to forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three pounds, eleven shillings and nine pence: and whereas it has been found by experience that the taxes, revenues and rents arising and payable to the said corporation out of the said North Level are not near sufficient to pay off and discharge the said debt particularly charged thereon, and to defray the charges and expences of maintaining, supporting and keeping in repair the several works for draining thereof; and notwithstanding the greatest part of the revenues of the said North Level have ever since the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight been laid out in and about the same, the several banks, rivers, sewers and works of the same Level are become so greatly decayed and ruinous that great part of the lands in the same Level have lately been very frequently flooded, and unless some immediate remedy be

applied, will become entirely drowned and of little or no value: and whereas the lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, parcel of the demesnes belonging to and lying within the manor of Crowland, in South Holland, in the county of Lincoln, herein after particularly bounded and described, are subject also to be frequently flooded, and cannot be effectually drained and preserved without a large expence; and whereas the said lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, adjoin to the said North Level on the north part thereof and lie convenient to be drained therewith, and it will be for the mutual benefit and advantage of the proprietors or owners thereof, and of the proprietors or owners of the lands within the said North Level to join in one common drainage; and in order thereto, the proprietors or owners of the said manor of Crowland and lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, and the proprietors or owners of the greatest part of the lands within the said North Level, are willing and desirous that a sufficient sum of money for the effectual draining of all the said lands shall be raised by a tax upon all the said lands, to be ordered, governed and disposed of in such manner as herein after is mentioned, provided that the said North Level be discharged from the debts of the said corporation, and that all the taxes, rents and revenues, which shall hereafter arise and become payable to the said corporation out of the said North Level, be applied, under the direction of the said corporation, for the benefit of the said North Level only, in such manner as herein after is mentioned: and whereas the taxes, rents and revenues, arising and payable to the said corporation out of the said North Level, are about one-eighth part of the taxes, rents and revenues, arising and payable to the said corporation out of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens, and therefore the said North Level is subject and liable to raise and pay one-eighth part of the said



debt of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, which was contracted by the said corporation before the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, on account of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens; and in order to raise money to pay off and discharge the same, it has been proposed that so much of the taxes charged on the corporation lands within the said North Level, by virtue of or under the said recited act of the fifteenth of King Charles the Second, shall be sold in such manner as herein after is mentioned, as shall raise a sufficient sum of money for that purpose: and whereas the said John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln, being desirous to promote so good and beneficial an undertaking, have consented and are willing to exonerate and discharge the said corporation of and from the said debt of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds, eleven shillings and nine pence, and to yield up and surrender all the taxes, rents and revenues of the said North Level, which they are intitled to receive by virtue of and under the said recited agreement, and to release and discharge all their right, title and interest, in and to the same, on condition that the taxes, rents and revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, be for the future only chargeable with the residue of the said debt of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, contracted before the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and with the said debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty pounds, contracted on account of the said Middle and South Levels, since the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight; and that the said North Level, and the taxes, rents and revenues thereof, be fully and absolutely discharged of and from all the debts of the said corporation and every part thereof: And whereas at a court of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, held at the Fen Office,

on Saturday the twenty-fourth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, a plan according to the said proposals, and for effecting and carrying the said undertaking into execution, in such manner as herein after is mentioned, was laid before the said court, and the said court thereupon came to the following resolutions, *videlicet*, That it appearing to the board that the debt due from this corporation in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, was fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, and that the taxes upon all the three Levels, at a tax and a quarter, amount to six thousand three hundred and fourteen pounds, three shillings and eleven pence halfpenny, of which the tax arising from the North Level is seven hundred and seventy-seven pounds, three shillings and four pence halfpenny, being about one-eighth part, it is the opinion of this board, that if his Grace the Duke of Bedford and Lord Lincoln remit the debt of about nineteen thousand pounds, which is due to them under the agreements made with them by this corporation in one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for draining the North Level, and the proprietors of the North Level will pay one thousand eight hundred pounds as their proportion of the said debt of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, it will be for the interest of the other two Levels for this corporation to consent, that the lands of the North Level be exonerated from the payment of the remainder of the said debt and the subsequent debts of the corporation by the act of parliament intended to be applied for, for the better draining of that Level: And the remaining part of the said plan being read, the board resolved, that the same did not in any wise appear to be prejudicial to either of the Levels belonging to the said corporation, and therefore they did approve thereof: And whereas the said corporation and the creditors of the said corporation, and the proprietors of the greatest



part of the taxable lands within the said Middle and South Levels, having seen and considered the said proposals, approve thereof, and are willing and consenting that the same should be carried into execution: And whereas the effectual draining and preserving the said North Level and the said lands within the manor of Crowland, which contain together about forty-eight thousand acres, would be of great benefit and advantage to the several proprietors thereof, and of service to the publick in general, and if the proposals and agreements before mentioned are carried into execution, it is apprehended and believed that the same may be effectually drained and preserved; but in regard the same cannot be effected, or the money necessary for that purpose raised, without the aid and authority of parliament, Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, and all and every the taxes, rents and revenues, arising and payable to the said corporation by, from or out of the lands in the said North Level, or any part thereof, and all and every other the lands, taxes, rents and revenues of the said corporation, shall be and are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the said debt or sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds, eleven shillings and nine pence, so as aforesaid due and owing to the said John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln, by virtue of and under the said recited indenture of the twenty-ninth day of May one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and every part thereof, and all interest payable for or in respect thereof; and that the said recited indenture of the twenty-ninth day of May one

The corporation of conservators of Bedford Level discharged from the debt of 18,913*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* due to John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln;

and the recited indenture of 29 May 1728, declared void,

thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, shall be and is hereby enacted and declared to be from henceforth null and void; and the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and their successors, and the said John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln, their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of the said Wriothesley late Duke of Bedford and Henry late Earl of Lincoln, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from all and every the covenants, clauses, articles, conditions and agreements in the said recited indenture contained.

And whereas the said yearly sum of one hundred pounds, mentioned in the said recited indenture of the twenty-ninth day of May one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, to be payable by the heirs or assigns of Sir Charles Orby, deceased, to the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, was payable in pursuance of certain articles of agreement made the tenth day of July, which was in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, between the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the one part, and the said Sir Charles Orby of the other part, for a term of twenty-eight years, which long since expired: now for the obviating and avoiding all doubts, questions and controversies which may any wise happen or arise in relation to the said yearly sum of one hundred pounds, or the non payment thereof, or any arrears thereof; it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the heirs and assigns of the said Sir Charles Orby, and Thomas Orby Hunter, Esq. his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the payment of the said yearly sum of one hundred pounds to the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators aforesaid, and their successors

The executors  
of Sir Charles  
Orby and  
Thomas Orby  
Hunter, dis-  
charged from  
payment of the  
annual sum of  
100*l.* to the  
company,



and from all  
covenants in  
the articles of  
10 July 1697.

or assigns, and of and from all arrears thereof said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and successors, and the heirs and assigns of the said Sir Orby deceased, and the said Sir Thomas Orby his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged from all and every the covenants, clauses, additions and agreements, contained in the said the tenth day of July one thousand six hundred ninety-seven before-mentioned.

Proprietors of  
taxable lands  
within the  
North Level,  
may purchase  
off so much  
of the taxes  
chargeable  
thereon, by  
act 15 & 20  
Car. II.

as will raise  
the sum of  
1800*l.* and  
enter subscrip-  
tions for the  
same, before  
24 June 1754.

And in order to raise money sufficient to discharge the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds, so as aforesaid ascertained and declared the proportion of the said North Level, of, and the debts of the said corporation, contracted before the year one thousand seven hundred and two it is hereby further enacted and declared, That it may be lawful to and for the proprietors of lands within the said North Level, to purchase so much of the taxes chargeable on their respective lands by virtue of or under the said recited acts of the fifteenth and twentieth years of the reign of the said late Majesty King Charles the Second, as will amount to the rate of thirty years purchase, computing at the said taxes on the said eighty-three thousand acres a tax and a quarter; and on the said twelve thousand acres in proportion thereto, according to the rate of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, as will be sufficient to raise the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds; and in order thereto, it shall be lawful to and for the said several proprietors of the said lands, at any time on or before the twentieth day of June which shall be in the year of our said Majesty King George the Third the first thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to subscribe and sign a book to be kept by the governor, bailiffs and commonalty, or their register, for that purpose, at

in the Inner Temple, London, for the purchase of the taxes of so much of their respective lands as they shall be respectively willing and desirous to purchase off, at and after the rate aforesaid; and in case the purchase of more of the said taxes shall be so subscribed for, on or before the said twenty-fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, than shall be sufficient to raise the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds; then, and in such case, the purchase thereof shall be allotted and settled by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, amongst the said subscribers, in equal average and proportion to the taxes payable by them respectively; and upon payment of the several sums of money so to be subscribed or allotted for the purchase of the taxes aforesaid, on or before the twenty-ninth day of September which shall be in the said year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, or their treasurer, to be by them applied for and towards payment of the debts contracted by the said corporation before the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, the said several purchasers, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and their respective lands and tenements, shall be from thenceforth fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the taxes by them so purchased as aforesaid, and of and from all other rates and taxes whatsoever chargeable on the lands by them so exonerated as aforesaid, by virtue of or under the said several acts of parliament of the fifteenth and twentieth years of King Charles the Second, or either of them; and it shall and may be lawful to and for the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, and they are hereby required, upon such payment as aforesaid, at the costs of such purchasers, to execute under their common seal, good and sufficient releases and discharges to the said several purchasers, their respective heirs, executors,

Payment thereof to be made by 29 Sept. 1754; and to be applied in discharging the said debt.

Company to execute releases of the taxes to the purchasers.



administrators, and assigns, of and from the taxes so by them respectively purchased as aforesaid, particularly describing and bounding therein the lands which shall be thereby released and exonerated from taxes in pursuance of such purchases.

The taxes chargeable by acts 15 & 20 Car. II. to be continued on the residue of the lands not exonerated,

and to be applied in the works of the Level herein mentioned and described.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the taxes chargeable by virtue of and under the said acts of the fifteenth and twentieth years of King Charles the Second, or either of them, upon the residue of the taxable lands within the said North Level, which shall not be so exonerated as aforesaid, shall be always hereafter, and hereby are, fixed and settled upon so much thereof as shall be part of the said eighty-three thousand acres, at a tax and a quarter, and on so much thereof as shall be part of the said twelve thousand acres, in proportion thereto, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second; and shall not be lessened or increased under any pretence whatsoever; and that all the money which shall arise, or be produced by the said taxes within the said North Level, and all other the rents and revenues arising and payable to the said corporation by, from or out of the said North Level, or any part thereof, shall from thenceforth be applied and disposed of by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and their successors, in and about the several banks and works of the said Level herein after-mentioned; that is to say, in the first place to raise, make good, and keep in repair, the north bank of Moreton's Leame, the east bank of Cordike from Moreton's Leame to the Folly Bank, the Folly Banks from Cordike to the river Welland, the bank reaching from the Folly Bank to Peakirk town, and the South Bank of the river Welland to West Dam at the end of Crowland town, until the said banks shall be made of such a height and strength as the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, or their successors, shall judge sufficient to defend the said North Level and

South Holland from and against the land floods; and from and after the banks aforesaid shall be put into such a state of security as aforesaid, then the said taxes, rents and revenues shall be applied for and towards repairing and strengthening the banks of Shire Drain, scouring out the outfall, and repairing Gunthorpe Sluice; and also for and towards repairing and strengthening the south bank of the river Old South Eau from West Dam aforesaid to Clows Cross, and also the west bank of the said river Old South Eau from Clows Cross to Guyhirn, and the banks of the Counter Drain from Guyhirn to the east end of the severals in Stand Ground; and that the said taxes, rents, and revenues, shall not be applied or disposed of, to or for any other purpose or purposes whatsoever.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the said North Level, and all and singular the lands, tenements, rents, taxes and revenues thereof, shall be, and hereby is and are fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the residue of the said debt of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, which shall remain after payment of the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds to the said corporation; and also of and from the said debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty pounds, so contracted by the said corporation since the said year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, as aforesaid, and of and from every part and parcel of the said debts respectively, and all interest payable for or in respect thereof; and also of and from the payment of all other debts and sums of money whatsoever, now due and owing by or from the said corporation.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the said North Level, or the lands, tenements, rents, revenues and taxes thereof, or any part thereof, shall not

The lands of the North Level discharged from payment of the residue of the debt of 14,300*l*.

and from the debt of 15,940*l*.

and all other debts now owing.

The North Level not liable to debts, on account of the Middle and South Levels;



nor are they  
to be subject to  
debts on ac-  
count of the  
North Level.

Members for  
lands in the  
North Level  
not to vote  
concerning  
borrowing  
money, for the  
Middle and  
South Levels.

The lands to be  
drained to be  
divided into  
districts.

The first dis-  
trict of the  
lands.

be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, or sum or sums of money whatsoever, which shall at any time hereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed, by the said corporation, for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the doing and performing any work or works for the better draining and preserving the same Levels, or either of them; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and taxes of them, or either of them, shall not be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, sum or sums of money whatsoever, which shall at any time hereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed, by the said corporation, for or on account of the said North Level, or any work or works for the better draining and preserving thereof, or any part thereof.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no person or persons that shall be qualified to sit and vote as a member of the said corporation, for or in respect of lands or grounds in the said North Level only, shall, at any time hereafter, have any vote, power or authority concerning the borrowing any money for the service of the Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or which the taxes, rents and revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them only, shall be subject and liable to the payment of.

And for the better effecting the purposes of this present Act, it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the said several lands and grounds intended to be drained under the powers and authority of this present act, shall be and hereby are divided into five districts or divisions in manner herein after-mentioned, and that the waters of the said several districts or divisions shall run and be conveyed to sea, in, by and through the several rivers and drains herein after-mentioned; that is to say, the first of the said districts or divisions shall

contain all that part of the North Level which is bounded as follows; on the north by the river Welland from the Folly Bank to Crowland-bridge, and from thence to the place where the river Catwater now falls into the river Old South Eau, by the south-west bank of the said river Old South Eau, otherwise the ancient branch of the Nene, including the said south west bank; on the east, by the west bank of the river Catwater from the said place where the said river falls into the Old South Eau aforesaid, to the north side of Thorney Causeway, including the said bank; on the south by the road leading from Thorney Causeway aforesaid to Cordike, at the west end of Eye town; and on the west, from that part of Cordike, which is at the west end of Eye town aforesaid, to the river Welland, by the east bank of Cordike and the Folly Bank; and that the waters of the said district or division shall run and be conveyed to sea, into any part of the said river Old South Eau, otherwise the said antient branch of the river Nene, between Crowland Town End and the said place where Catwater now falls into the said river Old South Eau, and in, by and through that part of Catwater which lies between Pepper Lake and the said river Old South Eau, and all or any of the interior drains within the said district, and down that part of the said river Old South Eau which lies within the North Level on the north side thereof to Clows Cross, and from thence into, by and through Shire Drain to sea; with full liberty and power of opening and shutting the gates or doors which stand at the place where the said river Catwater falls into the Old South Eau, as occasion shall require: the second district or division shall contain all that part of the North Level which is bounded as follows; that is to say, on the north, in part by the said road leading from Cordike aforesaid, through Eye town, to Thorney Causeway, and in part by the south bank of Thorney Dike; on the east, in part (from Thorney Causeway

The drains through which the waters are to be conveyed into the sea.

The second district.



The drains by  
which the  
waters are to  
be conveyed.

The third  
district.

The drains for  
conveying the  
waters thereof.

aforesaid to Thorney Cross, where Catwater turns off westward towards Story's Bar) by the west bank of Catwater, and in part from the south bank of Thorney Dike aforesaid to the Counter Drain by the west bank of Knarlake; on the west, by Cordike, from the west end of Eye town aforesaid to Moreton's Leame; and on the south, by the Counter Drain aforesaid, from the upper part of the severals in Strand Ground to the west bank of Knarlake aforesaid, including all the said banks; and that the waters of the said last-mentioned district or division shall run and be conveyed to sea, in, by and through all or any of the interior drains within the said district, into the Counter Drain aforesaid; and in, by and through the Counter Drain aforesaid to Guyhirn; and from thence down the Old South Eau to Clows Cross; and from thence in, by and through Shire Drain to sea: the third district or division shall contain the lordship of Thorney, which is bounded on the west by Catwater; from Thorney Cross aforesaid to the Old South Eau; on the north, by the south bank of the Old South Eau, from the said place where Catwater now falls into the said river Old South Eau aforesaid, to Gold Dike, including the said bank; on the east, in part by Gold Dike and in part by Knarlake; and on the south by Thorney Dike, including the said river and drain of Catwater and Thorney Dike; and that the waters of the said last-mentioned district or division shall run or be conveyed into Gold Dike, and from Gold Dike to Clows Cross by the New South Eau to Throckenholt; and from thence on the south side of Throckenholt to Clows Cross, or by the drain that runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross, between Sutton Common and Inkerson Fen, and by Knarlake into the Counter Drain aforesaid, and in, by and through Shire Drain to sea, in such manner as shall be found most convenient by the said John Duke of Bedford, the sole owner of the said district, his heirs and

assigns: the fourth district or division shall contain all that part of the said North Level, which is bounded on the west by the east bank of Gold Dike and the east bank of Knarlake; on the north, by the south bank of that part of the Old South Eau which runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross; on the east, by the west bank of that part of the Old South Eau which runs from Guyhirn to Clows Cross; and on the south, by the north bank of the Counter Drain aforesaid, including all the said banks. And that the waters thereof shall run or be conveyed to sea into, by and through Shire Drain, by the Counter Drain aforesaid, and that part of the Old South Eau which runs from Guyhirn to Clows Cross: and the fifth district or division shall contain the lands before-mentioned, called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, bounded on the east by Holbeach and Whapload Lands and the Willow Row Bank, from Dowsdale to the river Asendike; on the north, by the said river Asendike and the river Welland, from the Willow Row Bank to Whitehouse, otherwise Eppinholt Corner; on the west, by the said river Welland, and by the north-east bank of the said river Old South Eau, otherwise antient branch of the Nene, from Eppinholt Corner aforesaid to Turketullus's Cross, near the place where Catwater now falls into the Old South Eau; and on the south by the north bank of the said river Old South Eau, from Turketullus's Cross to Dowsdale, including the said north-east bank and north bank; and that the waters of the said last-mentioned district or division shall run and be conveyed through Dowsdale Bank, being the before-mentioned north-east bank and north bank, into any part or parts of the said antient branch of the Nene, otherwise Old South Eau, and of the said river Old South Eau between Crowland Town End and Dowsdale, and from thence by the said river Old South Eau into, by and through Shire Drain aforesaid to sea.

The fourth district.

The drains for carrying off the waters thereof.

The fifth district.

The drains for carrying off the waters thereof.



The waters to be conveyed through the respective drains, without obstruction from the conservators of the Great Level.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the waters of the said several districts or divisions, shall run or be conveyed to sea in, by and through the several rivers or drains herein before mentioned and appointed, to the said several districts respectively for that purpose, without any lett, hindrance, obstruction or controul of, from or by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or their successors, in any manner or under any right whatsoever, or of, from or by the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any of them, under any pretence whatsoever, otherwise than as herein after is mentioned.

Commissioners for the several districts.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the several persons herein after named shall be, and hereby are, constituted and appointed commissioners for the executing and effecting the powers, authorities and purposes of this present act, until the last Monday in the month of June, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five; that is to say, for the said first district or division, the Right Honourable Brownlow Earl of Exeter, the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Lincoln, Timothy Brecknock, Thomas Moore, Esquires; Samuel Sharp, William Landen, John Walton, William Walton senior, Thomas Robert Gates, Charlton Wyldbore, Gentlemen; for the said second district or division, the Right Honourable George William Earl of Coventry, Richard Tryce, John Wildbore, Esquires; Daniel Bailey senior, Gentleman, Robert Blake, Esq.; George Johnson, Thomas Moore, junior, William Aveling of Eldernel, Gentlemen; for the said third district or division, his Grace the most Noble John Duke of Bedford, Samuel Henry Pont, Benjamin Woodward, Matthew Wyldbore, George Waddington, Robert Butcher, Esquires; Thomas Neale Clerk, M. A. Berry Dodson, William Sisson senior, William Preston,

Langley Edwards, Thomas Bullock, Richard Bayley, James Brown, Abraham Baley, John Bains, John Brittain, Robert Chapman, John Congreve, John Delanoy, John Egar, Thomas Fowler, Thomas Hawkins, William Little, John Milfield, William Morris, Benjamin Ris, Joseph Rolls, Job Rowning, Samuel Sharpe of Thorney, John Sharpe, Thomas Speechley, George Searle, John Wing, Gentlemen ; for the said fourth district or division, the Reverend George Reynolds LL.D. the Reverend Charles Reynolds D. D. Armstead Parker, Spelman Swaine, John Sly, Esquires ; Henry Burrough Clerk, M.A. James Ris Clerk, John Sumpter Esq. ; John Dickenson Clerk, M.A. Abraham Gerbow, Robert Wensley, Thomas Awdley, Francis Hardy ; and for the said fifth district or division, Thomas Orby Hunter Esquire, James Benson Clerk, John Crawford Esq. ; Thomas Brecknock, Charles Crawford, John Kelk, William Peers, John De Key, James Usill, Thomas Kingston, William Cowling, Isaac Whitsed, James Goglar, Thomas Webster, and Hugh Worrell.

And for the effectual raising and levying money for the general draining and preserving the lands and grounds comprized in all the said five several districts or divisions, and answering the purposes of this present act ; it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners hereby nominated and appointed, and such other commissioners as shall hereafter succeed them, or be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in their or any of their steads, by virtue of the powers and authority hereby given for that purpose, or any forty or more of them, shall meet yearly at the house called The Duke's Head Inn in Thorney, in the said Isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, so long as the same shall continue an inn or publick house, or otherwise at such other house in the town of Thorney aforesaid, as the commissioners for the time being, or the major part of them who shall be present

Commissioners  
to have a yearly  
general meet-  
ing, to make a  
rate for drain-  
ing on all lands  
not herein  
excepted ;



at any general meeting, shall think proper and appoint, on the first Monday which shall happen in the month of July, at ten of the clock in the forenoon in every year; the first of the said meetings to be had and held on Monday the first day of July which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and then and there, from time to time, shall assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the respective owner or owners, occupier or occupiers of all and singular the lands and grounds situate and being within the said several districts or divisions herein before-mentioned and described, or any of them, (except Great Burrough Fen Common, otherwise Peterborough Great Fen Common; the common now commonly called The four hundred Acre Common in Alderlands; Little Borough Fen Common, otherwise Peterborough Little Fen Common, otherwise Flagg Fen Common, and that part of Sutton Common which lies south of Old South Eau; add also except all the lands called Hurt's Grounds, in the parish of Stand Ground; and also all the lands of Oxney and Tanholt Farms, Chapel Close, Borough-hill Closes, Padham's Peakirk long Meadows, Peakirk little Meadows, and the closes adjoining thereto: Newark-Edgerly, and the closes adjoining thereto towards the west and north; Billingswood, and the closes adjoining thereto, in the parish of Paston; the lands called The Inhams, lying south of the Folly Bank, and the closes at the south end of the Inhams, called Puttock Closes; and also except all the highlands in Eyebury and Newark; and all the highlands in the parishes of Peterborough, Werrington, Glington, Peakirk Eye, Stand Ground and Whittlesey, or any of them) by and with equal and proportionable yearly rates, taxes or sums of money, at the discretion of the said commissioners, or the major part of them that shall be present at any such yearly general meeting; so that the said rates or taxes for the first four years, to be computed

the same for  
the first four  
years to be at  
1s. per acre,

from the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be after the yearly rate of one shilling for every acre of the lands and grounds comprized within all the said several districts or divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that after the expiration of the said term of four years the said rates or taxes do not exceed, in any one year, six pence for every acre of the lands and grounds comprized within all the said several districts or divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that no part of the said lands and grounds be, at any time, charged by virtue of this act, with any greater or lesser rate or tax than the rest of the said lands are or shall be charged with: which said rates, taxes and sums of money, so to be taxed and assessed as aforesaid, shall be paid by the respective owners or occupiers of the said lands or grounds, at the feast days of the nativity of St. John the Baptist and the birth of our Lord Christ, in every year, by equal half-yearly payments, to such person or persons as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any general meeting, shall, from time to time, order, direct or appoint the same; the first payment thereof to be made at the feast day of the birth of our Lord Christ which will be in the said year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and which said rates or taxes shall be subject to and chargeable with such sum or sums of money as shall be advanced, borrowed, raised and received on the credit thereof, in manner herein after-mentioned.

after not to  
exceed 6d. per  
acre in any one  
year;

the same to be  
paid half-  
yearly.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the quantities of the lands and grounds so to be rated and taxed as aforesaid shall, on or before Monday the second day of September one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be given in to the surveyor, treasurer or clerk, to be appointed by the said commissioners, and ascertained by the oath of the

The quantities  
of the lands  
rateable by the  
proprietors, to  
be given in  
upon oath by  
29th Sept.  
1754.



and on their neglect or refusal to do so, the lands to be surveyed and charged according thereto.

and the said persons to pay the charges of the survey.

The monies raised to be applied by the commissioners in manner herein directed.

owners, proprietors or occupiers thereof, or solemn affirmation of such of them as are or shall be of the people called Quakers, or other sufficient witness or witnesses to be made before the said commissioners, or any two or more of them; (which oath or affirmation the said commissioners, or any two or more of them, are hereby impowered to administer;) and if any of the said owners, proprietors or occupiers shall neglect or refuse to give in to such surveyor, treasurer or clerk a particular account of the number of acres contained in their several lands and grounds, and make oath or affirmation of the truth thereof by the time aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any general meeting, to order a survey to be made by such person or persons as they shall think proper, of the lands and grounds of the several persons who shall so neglect or refuse to give in such account, and make such oath or affirmation of the truth thereof as aforesaid; and any survey which shall be so made, shall be sufficient warrant and authority to the said commissioners to ascertain and determine the quantities of the lands and grounds of the persons so neglecting or refusing to give in such account; and the charge of such survey shall be paid by the person or persons so neglecting or refusing.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the taxes and sums of money so to be assessed, rated, raised and received as aforesaid, and also all sums of money to be borrowed and received on the credit thereof, in manner herein after-mentioned, shall, from time to time, be applied and disposed of by the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any general meeting, in manner following; that is to say, in the first place, in the paying and defraying the charges of this act; and in the next place, for and towards the

general works of draining and preserving all the said districts or divisions herein after-mentioned; that is to say, in cleansing out, widening and deepning the said antient branch of the river Nene, otherwise Old South Eau, and the said river Old South Eau, from Crowland town to Clows Cross; the said river Old South Eau, from Clows Cross to Guyhirn; the river Catwater, from about twenty feet above Thorney Cross to Story's Bar; and in making, cleansing out, widening and deepening a dike or drain from Story's Bar to or near North Eau Gravel, and also the Counter Drain from the east end of the severals in Stand Ground to Guyhirn and Gold Dike and Knarlake; and the New South Eau from Gold Dike to Throckenholt, or the said drain between Sutton Common and Inkerson Fen from Gold Dike to Throckenholt; (which the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, shall elect or choose to be cleansed, widened, and deepened) and the said drain on the south side of Throckenholt from such of the said drains which shall be so cleansed, widened and deepened, as aforesaid, to Clows Cross; and also in raising, strengthening and maintaining the north-east and north banks of the said antient branch of the Nene, otherwise Old South Eau, and of the said river Old South Eau, from Crowland town to Dowsdale; and the south-west and south banks of the said rivers, from Crowland town to Clows Cross; and the west bank of the Old South Eau, from Clows Cross to Guyhirn, in such manner, and to such height and strength at least, as shall be sufficient to defend the lands against a head of water which may arise four feet above the level of the lands adjoining to the said rivers; and also in raising, strengthening and maintaining both the banks of Catwater from about twenty feet above Thorney Cross to Story's Bar; both the banks of the said drain or dike from Story's Bar to the Counter Drain; the north bank of the Counter Drain, from the east end of



the severals in Stand Ground to Guyhirn ; both of Gold Dike and Knarlake ; and either both of New South Eau, from Gold Dike to Throckenholt, or both the banks of the drain between Suttor and Inkerson Fen from Gold Dike to Throckenholt, the election of the said John Duke of Bedford or assigns ; and both the banks of the drain on the side of Throckenholt, from such of the said rivers as shall be so elected as aforesaid, to Clows Cross, to the height and strength herein before directed, of the said rivers Nene and Eau ; and also in damming up the Old Water on the east side of Gold Dike ; and in damming up the south end of Gold Dike ; and also in making a dam at the south end of Gold Dike, or at or near the south end of Knarlake ; and in keeping and continuing the drain so dammed up ; and also in supporting and maintaining the Pointing Doors now standing near the place where Catwater now falls into the river Old South Eau ; and also in scouring the Shire Drain from Clows Cross to Gunthorpe Sluice, heightening, strengthening and maintaining the same on both sides Shire Drain, in such good and sufficient manner as to be sufficient to convey the waters through the said several rivers and drains down to Gunthorpe Sluice ; and in erecting, working, supplying, repairing so many engines or mills, not exceeding the number between Shire Goat, otherwise Hill Sluice, or otherwise Goat Sluice, and Gunthorpe Sluice, for throwing up and discharging the waters coming down Shire Drain, as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, shall be present at any such yearly general meeting aforesaid, shall, from time to time, in their discretion think proper and order to be erected, supplied, worked ; and in widening, altering, rebuilding and amending Gunthorpe Sluice, Shire Goat

Sluice, otherwise Tid Goat Sluice aforesaid, and the several bridges, clows and sluices in and over Shire Drain, Old South Eau, Counter Drain, New South Eau, the said drain between Sutton Common and Inkerson Fen, and the said antient branch of the Nene, and in scouring out the reservoir and sands at and near the outfall from Shire Drain to sea, from time to time, as occasion shall require, and in making and maintaining such other convenient bridges over Catwater and the Counter Drain, as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly general meeting as aforesaid, in their discretion shall think proper; and in discharging the wages and salaries of officers, and other necessary expences.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no further or greater sum of money than the sum of forty shillings shall ever be allowed or paid out of the money to be raised under the authorities of this act, for the charges or expences of any one meeting of the said commissioners.

No more than 40s. allowed for the charges of any one meeting of the commissioners.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That a sufficient part of the said rates and taxes, and the money to be borrowed on the credit of this act, shall, in the first place, after paying and defraying the charges of this act, be applied and disposed of in cleansing out and deepening the said river Old South Eau, from Clows Cross to Guyhirn, and in making, raising and strengthening the west bank thereof, to the height and strength herein before directed, and in damming up the Old Wryde at the place aforesaid; and in making, raising and strengthening the east bank of Gold Dike, both banks of Knarlake, and in cleansing, widening and deepening Catwater from about twenty feet above Thorney Cross to Story's Bar, the drain from Story's Bar to or near North Eau Gravel, and the Counter Drain from the east end of the severals in Stand Ground to Guyhirn; and in making, raising

The rivers and banks, &c. which are to be first repaired and cleansed.



and strengthening the north bank of the Count to the height and strength herein before-mentioned in scouring out the reservoir and sands at or outfall from Shire Drain to sea, once in every twelve Michaelmas and Christmas; and in height strengthening and maintaining the banks on both Shire Drain, in such good and substantial manner as shall be sufficient to convey the waters running through the said several rivers and drains down to Gunthorpe and afterwards in or about such of the other works before-mentioned, as the said commissioners for the said being, or the major part of them, who shall be appointed at any such general meeting, shall, in their discretion think most necessary to be done for answering the purposes of this act.

The dam to be made in the Old Wryde Drain, not to be afterwards removed, &c.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted, That the dam herein before directed to be made in the said drain, called Old Wryde, shall not be removed or taken away; but that the said dam called Old Wryde, shall always hereafter continue to be dammed up at the place aforesaid; and that all other dams, herein before directed to be made, after so made, be removed or taken away.

The Counter Drain from the severals to be cleansed at the proprietors' charge.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted, That the Counter Drain from the severals in Stand Ground, to the east end of the severals, shall be cleansed and scoured out, from time to time, at the sole expence of, and by the proprietors of the said severals, for the time being.

If Dunton Hall Bridge be taken down, or altered, the commissioners to build another.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if it shall be found necessary to widen, alter, or pull down a certain bridge over Shire Drain aforesaid, called Dunton Hall Bridge, heretofore built by Sir John Trafford, Esq.; in order to give the waters a free and open passage in and through the said drain, the said commissioners and their successors shall, by a

the monies hereby directed to be raised for the said general works of draining, build another bridge, in case the same shall be taken down at the place aforesaid, of the same sort of materials, and in as handsome a manner as the present bridge; and, from time to time, support and maintain a sufficient bridge at the place aforesaid for horses, cattle, carriages and passengers.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That over and above the said rates and taxes herein before authorized and directed to be raised, levied and received for the general works of draining herein before directed, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commissioners for the time being of the said fourth district or division, or the major part of them, who shall be present at such yearly general meeting as aforesaid, then and there from time to time to assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the owner and owners, occupier and occupiers of all and singular the lands and grounds situate and being within the said fourth district or division, by and with a further equal and proportionable yearly rate, tax or sum of money, at the discretion of the commissioners for the time being of the said last-mentioned district or division, or the major part of them that shall be present at any such meeting; so that such further or additional tax or sum of money do not exceed in any one year, for the two first years, to be computed from the twenty-fourth day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, two shillings for every acre of the land or ground within the said last-mentioned district (except as before excepted) and so that, after the expiration of the said term of two years, such further or additional tax or sum of money do not exceed, in any one year, one shilling for every acre of land or ground within the said last-mentioned district or division, except as aforesaid: and also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said respective commissioners for the time being of the said

Besides the rate for general works of draining, the commissioners of the fourth district may make another rate on the lands therein,

not exceeding 2s. per acre for the first two years,

and 1s. per acre after.

The commissioners of the first and second districts may also make a like rate.



not exceeding  
1s. per acre.

first and second districts or divisions, or the major part of them respectively, who shall be present at any yearly general meeting as aforesaid, then and from time to time, severally and respectively to assess and tax and charge all and every the owner and occupier and occupiers of all and singular the lands, grounds, situate and being within their several respective districts or divisions (except as hereinbefore mentioned to be excepted) by and with a fair and proportionable yearly rate, tax, or sum of money at the discretion of the several and respective commissioners for the time being of and for the said last-mentioned districts or divisions, or the major part of them, to be present at any such yearly general meeting as aforesaid; so that such further or additional tax, money, do not exceed in any one year one shilling for every acre of land or ground within the said last-mentioned two districts or divisions respectively (except as before excepted); which said additional rate, tax, or money so to be severally and respectively taxed or charged by the several and respective commissioners of the said last-mentioned districts or divisions respectively, shall be paid by the owners or occupiers of the lands or grounds comprized in the said three districts or divisions respectively, to such person or persons, at such times, and in such manner and proportion as the several commissioners for the time being of the said three districts or divisions respectively, or the major part of them that shall be present at any such yearly general meeting as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, severally or jointly, by their order, direct or appoint the same; and the same shall be applied and disposed of at the discretion of the several commissioners for each of the said three districts or divisions respectively, or the major part of them for the time being present at their respective meetings, in or about the works, banks, drains, mills, engines and other

and things necessary for draining each of the said three districts or divisions respectively; and to or for no other use or purpose whatsoever.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners in general, or the major part of them for the time being, who shall be present at the said yearly or any other general meeting, to make and widen the said drain or dike from Story's Bar to or near North Eau Gravel, and, from time to time, to cleanse, widen, raise, strengthen, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, raised, strengthened, built, erected and supported, all such rivers, drains, outlets, dams, banks, bridges, mills, engines and other matters and things herein before-mentioned, and particularly directed to be done by them, for draining the said lands and grounds, except as before excepted; and also to take and use such earth and ground near or adjoining to the said banks, as shall be necessary for the making, raising, strengthening and maintaining thereof, as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly or other general meeting, shall think necessary and proper; paying such reasonable satisfaction to the person or persons who have a right to the soil through or upon which any such river, drain, outlet, dam, bank, mill or engine shall be made or erected, and for such earth and ground as shall be so taken as aforesaid, for the damages, if any, which they shall thereby sustain, as shall be agreed upon between the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any such general meeting, and the person or persons having such right as aforesaid; and also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the respective commissioners of the said three last-mentioned districts or divisions, or the major part of them for the time being, who shall be present at their respective meetings, from time to time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut,

The commissioners, at a general meeting, may order the drain from Story's Bar to North Eau Gravel to be cleansed, &c.

and to make use of earth to strengthen the banks, making satisfaction to the proprietors of the soil.

The commissioners of the three last districts may order the banks, drains and other works, in their districts, to be repaired, &c.



build, erect, and support, or cause to be cleansed, made, cut, built, erected and supported, banks, bridges, cuts, drains, dams, outlets, mills and other matters and things within their several and respective districts or divisions, for draining their respective lands and grounds, (except as before provided) and conveying the waters thereof into the sea or drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the waters of the said three districts respectively to sea, as the said commissioners or the major part of them present at their meetings, for the time being, shall think proper, paying such reasonable satisfaction to the owners or persons who have a right to the soil through which any such cut, drain, dam, bank or outlet is made, or whereupon any such engines or mills are erected, for the damages he, she or they shall sustain, as shall be agreed upon between the said commissioners respectively, or the major part of them at the time being, and the person or persons having right as aforesaid; and if the said commissioners in any of the respective commissions for the three last aforesaid districts, or the major part of them present at any of their respective meetings, for the time being, and such persons having right as aforesaid, cannot agree upon the amount of such damages, then the same shall be assessed and adjudged by the justices of the peace for the county of the major part of them, at their next or any of their next Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be holden in the county of Ely, or county where such damage shall be sustained, who are hereby authorized, empowered and required to examine into, hear and determine the same; and the determination which shall be so made by the said justices at their Quarter Sessions as aforesaid, shall be conclusive to all parties.

Differences concerning damages to be settled by the justices at their Quarter Sessions.

The lands before excepted,

Provided always, and be it hereby further

declared by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any of them, any right, power or authority to exclude the herein before excepted farms, lands and commons, or any of them, by any dams or other works to be made, from the use of the several and respective public drains hereafter to be made use of for the general draining of the first, second and fourth districts respectively.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all owners and occupiers of lands lying and being within the said first, second and fourth districts or divisions aforesaid, shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, keep, or cause to be kept, all the outring or division dikes or drains belonging to them respectively, of a sufficient depth, and of the breadth or wideness of nine feet at the least; and shall also, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, cause the same drains or dikes to be well and effectually roaded, scoured and cleansed from weeds and other rubbish and obstructions, and cause bridges or tunnels to be laid therein where necessary, for the better issuing, running and conveying away the waters therein; and if any such owner or occupier shall not, within fourteen days next after notice and direction to or for him or her given or left in that behalf, in writing under the hands of two or more of the commissioners for the district or division where such lands lie respectively, cause and procure such drains or dikes to be roaded, scoured, cleansed, deepened and widened respectively, and such tunnels and bridges to be laid in pursuance of and according to such notice and direction; the said commissioners for the district or division wherein such work is directed to be done as aforesaid, or any two or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required to cause the same to be done in a

not to be excluded from the use of the public drains of the 1st, 2d, and 4th districts.

Owners and occupiers of lands in the 1st, 2d, and 4th districts, to keep the division dikes of a sufficient depth, and 9 feet wide, and well secured, &c.

and on neglect thereof, commissioners may set men to work thereon,



and levy the  
charges by dis-  
tress and sale.

The Duke of  
Bedford to  
cleansse and  
support the  
drains and  
other works  
in the third  
districts.

Thomas Orby  
Hunter to  
cleansse and  
support the  
drains and  
other works  
in the fifth  
division.

proper and effectual manner, and by warrant under the hands and seals, or the hands and seals of any two or more of them, to authorize or empower their collectors, or any other person or persons, to raise the charge and expence of doing thereof, and sale of such goods and chattels as shall hereafter be found on the lands or grounds such drains or dikes, bridges or tunnels, shall or belong ; rendering the overplus, if any, to the owners thereof.

And whereas the said John Duke of Bedford is the absolute owner and proprietor of all the grounds comprized in the said third district and now it is hereby further enacted by the authority said, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs and assigns, from time to time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, built, erected and supported, all such banks, dams, outlets, mills, engines and other matters within, upon, and through the said third division, for the draining and defending the same, conveying the waters thereof into the several rivers herein before particularly allotted and appointed, conveying the waters of the said third district to the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, as they shall think necessary or proper.

And whereas the said Thomas Orby Hunter is the owner of the manor of Crowland, and owner and proprietor of the lands and grounds comprized in the said fifth division except about four hundred acres which are the lands of Beverley Butler, Esq. and eighteen acres which are the lands of the parson of Crowland for the time being, and the acres called Place Yard ; but all which lands cannot be drained according to the intention of the said Act, but through some of the drains, banks or works

to the said Thomas Orby Hunter; now it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Thomas Orby Hunter, his heirs and assigns, from time to time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such banks, cuts, drains, dams, outlets, mills, engines and other matters and things, within, upon and through the lands and grounds within the said last-mentioned district or division contained, for the draining and defending the same, and conveying the waters thereof into the several rivers or drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the waters of the said fifth district to sea, as the said Thomas Orby Hunter, his heirs or assigns, shall think necessary or proper; except within, upon or through the lands of the said Beverley Butler, unless the consent of the said Beverley Butler, or of him, her or them to whom the freehold inheritance, remainder or reversion of that his estate, shall hereafter of right come, belong, or appertain, be first had or obtained in writing, for the doing any work or works whatsoever thereon. Exception.

And further it is hereby enacted and declared, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Beverley Butler, his heirs and assigns, to erect and support upon the south part of his said four hundred acres before-mentioned, one mill for the better draining the waters therefrom through Dowsdale Bank into the said river Old South Eau, if the said Beverley Butler, his heirs or assigns, shall think proper. Beverley Butler may erect and support a mill for draining the waters from the ground belonging to him.

Provided always nevertheless, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no cut, river, drain or outlet, mill, engine or other device, shall be made, cut, set up, used, or employed for the throwing, draining, or conveying away the waters of any particular district or division, by virtue of or under the authorities aforesaid, but such only The waters of particular districts, to be conveyed into the rivers or drains allotted for that purpose.



Proviso with respect to the height of the waters in the river of the Old South Eau.

Engines erected contrary to the above proviso, may be stopped.

Tenants to pay the rates,

as shall lead, throw, or convey the waters of each district or division respectively into the particular rivers or drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for the conveying the waters of each of the said five districts or divisions respectively, into and through Shire Drain to sea. And that no mill or mills, engine or engines, or other device, shall be worked, used, or employed for the throwing of the waters from any of the said districts or divisions, at any time or times when the waters in the said river Old South Eau shall be more than four feet above the level of the soil in the North Level near the said river, opposite to Whaploade Common.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That if any mill or mills, engine or engines, or other device, shall be worked, used or employed for the throwing, draining, or conveying away the waters from any particular district or division, contrary to the proviso herein before last contained, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any two or more of them, upon proof thereof on the oaths of two or more credible witnesses (which oaths any two or more of the said commissioners are hereby empowered to administer) by warrant under their hands, to order and cause the going or working of all and every such mill and mills, engine and engines, or other device, to be stopped and discontinued till the waters in the said river Old South Eau shall be so abated as not to be four feet above the level aforesaid; and when and so soon as the waters shall be so abated, it shall and may be lawful to and for the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any two or more of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to give authority, under their hands, for the working of the mill or mills, engine or engines, that shall have been so stopped as aforesaid.

And, to the end the said rates and taxes may be more easily and effectually collected and received, be it fur-

ther enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every the tenants and occupiers of the lands and grounds which shall be assessed or rated by virtue of this act, shall be and are hereby required and made liable to pay all and every such sum and sums of money as shall be so assessed and rated upon the lands and grounds in their respective occupations; and in case of such payment by any tenant or tenants, who shall hold the lands or grounds by him or them occupied at a rack-rent, such tenant or tenants so holding his or their lands or grounds at a rack-rent, shall be at liberty, and are hereby empowered to deduct and retain out of his or their rent all such rates, taxes, or sums of money as they shall so respectively pay as aforesaid; and the several and respective landlords or owners of such lands or grounds, are hereby required to allow such deductions and payments upon the receipt of the residue of their rents; and all and every tenant and tenants so holding at a rack-rent, and paying such assessment or rate, shall be acquitted and discharged from and against his, her, or their landlord or landlords, of and from so much money as the assessments or rates by him or them so paid as aforesaid shall amount unto, in as full and ample manner as if the same had been actually paid to his, her, or their landlord or landlords.

and such as are at rack-rent may deduct the same.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That no lessee or tenant of any lands or grounds charged with the said taxes, who shall hold the same by virtue of, or under any lease from any bishop or collegiate church or college, or any ecclesiastical corporation, sole or aggregate, or the trustees of the charity of Peterborough, or other beneficial lease whatsoever, shall be intitled to deduct the taxes chargeable by this act out of the rent reserved and payable by any such lease to his, her, or their landlord or landlords; but the said taxes shall be charged upon,

The deduction allowed to tenants under bishops' leases, &c.



borne, and paid by the essees or tenants so holding such lands or grounds under any such lease as aforesaid; any thing hereafter before contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Rents may be  
levied by dis-  
tress and sale.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the respective rates, taxes, or sums of money, which shall be taxed, charged, or assessed upon him, her, or them, or the lands or grounds in his, her, or their possession or occupation, by virtue of and under the powers and authorities of this act, within twenty-one days next after the same shall become due and payable, and demand made thereof by the collector or collectors appointed to receive the same, at the lands or grounds charged therewith, or the dwelling-house of the tenant or occupier thereof, it shall and may be lawful to and for such collector or collectors, or for any other person or persons, by virtue of any warrant or precept, under the hands and seals of any five or more of the said commissioners (which said warrant or precept such commissioners, or any five or more of them, are hereby empowered and required, from time to time, to make, as occasion shall require) to enter into and upon the lands or grounds so rated and taxed as aforesaid, in possession of such person or persons as shall so make default in payment as aforesaid, and all messuages or tenements thereupon standing, or thereunto belonging, with the appurtenances, and to levy the sum or sums of money by him, her, or them payable for such rate or tax, by distress of the goods and chattels which shall be found on the premisses so charged with any such rate or tax in arrear as aforesaid; and in case no sufficient distress can be found on the premisses, it shall and may be lawful to and for such collector or collectors, or other person or persons, by virtue of such warrant or precept as aforesaid, to levy all arrears of the said taxes, by distress of

the goods and chattels of the person or persons so making default in payment as aforesaid, which shall be found in any other place within the kingdom of Great Britain, and the goods and chattels so distrained to impound on the premisses, or take, lead, drive, carry away, and keep for the space of five days, at the costs and charges of the owner or owners thereof, leaving at such messuage or tenement, grounds or premisses, notice in writing of the cause of such distress; and if the owner or owners of the goods and chattels so distrained shall not pay the sum or sums of money so assessed or rated, and in arrear as aforesaid, with all charges attending such distress, or replevy the goods and chattels so distrained, with sufficient sureties to be given to the sheriff of the county, or high bailiff of the Isle of Ely, according to the laws now in being for distresses in cases of non-payment of rent within five days next after such distress made, and notice thereof given as aforesaid, the person or persons so distraining shall and may, with the sheriff or under-sheriff of the county, bailiff of the Isle of Ely, or constable or headborough of the parish where such distress shall be made (who are hereby required to assist therein), cause the goods and chattels so distrained to be appraised by two or more indifferent persons, to be sworn by such sheriff, under-sheriff, bailiff, constable, or headborough, (who are hereby empowered to administer such oath) to appraise the same according to the best of their judgment; and after such appraisement, it shall and may be lawful to and for such collector or collectors, or other person or persons making such distress, to sell the goods and chattels so distrained for the best price that can be got for the same, for and towards satisfaction of the monies for which such distress shall be so made, and the charges of taking, keeping, appraising, and selling the goods and chattels so distrained, leaving the overplus, if

Distress may  
be sold within  
five days.



If the lands shall be untenanted, and no distress can be had, the lands to remain as a security for the rates.

any, in the hands of such sheriff, under-sheriff, bailiff, constable, or headborough, for the owner's use.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That in case any of the said lands and grounds shall, at any time hereafter, be untenanted or unoccupied, so that no sufficient distress can be found for levying the said rates and taxes, then the lands and grounds chargeable therewith, shall always remain a security for payment thereof; and all goods and chattels, which shall at any time thereafter be found thereon, shall and may be distrained, impounded, kept, appraised, and sold in manner aforesaid, until all arrears of the said rates and taxes, and the charges of such distress, shall be fully paid and satisfied.

The sum of 14000*l*. may be raised by annuities, to answer the immediate expences of draining the lands.

And forasmuch as the monies so to be yearly rated, levied, and collected in pursuance of this act, will not at present be sufficient for answering the charge and expence of the said general works of draining and preserving the said lands and grounds, and other the purposes aforesaid; and for defraying the reasonable charges in and about the passing this act; it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said owners or occupiers of the said lands and grounds comprized within the said several and respective districts or divisions, or any of them, or for any other person or persons, to advance and pay to the said commissioners, or their treasurer for the time being, any sum or sums of money, not exceeding in the whole the sum of fourteen thousand pounds, for the absolute purchase of any certain annuity or annuities, to be paid and payable during the term of thirty years, or for the life of any single person, as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, for the time being, who shall be present at their said yearly or any other general meeting, shall, from time to time, think fit; to

commence respectively from the respective times such money shall be paid or advanced, and to be computed at such rate or rates as shall be agreed on by the said commissioners for the time being, or the major part of them, who shall be present at such yearly or any other general meeting as aforesaid, with the person or persons paying or advancing such money, so as the rate or rates so to be agreed on for any such annuity or annuities for thirty years, do not exceed six pounds per annum for any sum of one hundred pounds, and proportionably for any greater or less sum; and so as the rate or rates so to be agreed on for any such annuity or annuities for the single life of any one person do not exceed seven pounds per centum per annum, and proportionably for any greater or less sum; and the purchase money for every such annuity, at the rate aforesaid, is hereby appointed to be paid to the said commissioners, or their treasurer for the time being, at such times also as shall for that purpose be agreed on by and between the said parties: all which annuities shall be paid and payable to the purchasers of the same, their executors, administrators, or assigns, by even and equal half-yearly portions; the first payment thereof to be due at the end of six calendar months from the time of paying the purchase money for the same.

And, to the intent the said annuities may be effectually secured, and duly and regularly paid, it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any ten or more of them, for the time being, may and shall, at any of the said general meetings, by proper instruments or deeds, under their respective hands and seals, grant such annuities, to be issuing out of the said yearly rates or taxes, or any part or parts thereof, for such principal sums as shall be so advanced as aforesaid (the charge of such grants to be borne and paid out of the said taxes); and all such annuities shall

Annuities for  
thirty years not  
to exceed 6*l*.  
and for a single  
life 7*l*. per cent.

Annuities to be  
charged on the  
rates,

and to be tax-  
free.



If it shall be thought more advisable, commissioners may borrow money at an interest, not to exceed 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

be free and exempt from all parliamentary and other taxes, duties and assessments whatsoever.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby further enacted, That if the said commissioners, or the major part of them, for the time being, who shall be present at any such general meeting as aforesaid, shall, instead of granting such annuities as aforesaid, judge it more adviseable to borrow money for the purposes aforesaid, repayable with interest, at times to be agreed on; or shall think it proper to grant annuities in part, and borrow money in other part, for the purposes aforesaid, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners, or the major part of them, for the time being, who shall be present at any such general meeting as aforesaid, to borrow, take up and receive any sum or sums of money that they shall think proper, and to mortgage, charge, assign and convey or incumber the said rates or taxes, so to be assessed and levied for the said general works of draining as aforesaid, or any part or parts thereof, with and for the re-payment of the sums so borrowed, with such interest, at such times, and with such provisoes, and conditions of redemption, as shall be agreed on; so, nevertheless, that the principal money so to be borrowed, together with the money received for the purchase of any annuities, shall never exceed in the whole the principal sum of fourteen thousand pounds, and so as the interest for the monies, so to be borrowed by way of mortgage as aforesaid, do not exceed the rate of five pounds per centum per annum.

Monies borrowed to be applied in the same manner as the rates.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That all and every sum and sums of money which shall be raised, borrowed or received, by the said commissioners, or any of them, or their treasurer or treasurers, for the purchase of any such annuity or annuities, or by way of loan or mortgage as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in such and the said manner, as the rates and taxes to

be assessed and levied by virtue of and under the authority of this act, for the said general works of draining, are or ought to have been applied and disposed of, in case no such annuity had been granted, and no such mortgage made.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the rates, taxes and sums of money hereby enacted to be paid for the said general works of draining, by the owners or occupiers of the lands, grounds and premises aforesaid, or such part or parts thereof, as shall be particularly charged or incumbered as aforesaid, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first place, with and for the payment of such annuities, and all arrears thereof, and of such mortgage monies, and the interest thereof, from time to time; and shall vest in the respective annuitants and mortgagees, upon default of payment of such annuities, and mortgage monies and interest, until the same shall be fully paid and satisfied, together with the costs and charges occasioned by the non-payment of the same; and the said annuitants and mortgagees respectively, their respective executors, administrators, and assigns, shall have the same power, rights and privileges, of raising and recovering the taxes and sums of money, payable by the owners or occupiers of the said lands, grounds, and premises aforesaid, for and in respect of the said annuities, and mortgage monies, and interest, in case of default of payment thereof, as the said commissioners or their collectors could have had, in case the said annuities and mortgage monies had been regularly and fully paid and satisfied.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the said annuities shall be deemed personal estates; and that the same annuities, and the said mortgages, and mortgage monies, shall and may be assignable or transferrable by indorsement on the original grant or security thereof, or otherwise, without stamp, to any person or persons whatsoever;

The rates to be applied in the first place, in payment of annuities, and mortgages, and the interest thereof.

Annuities deemed personal estates, and they and the mortgages may be assigned.



Fee for entering of assignments.

Assignees may assign again *toties quoties*.

Books to be provided for entering the sums borrowed, &c. the parties and dates.

Forty commissioners to be present and consenting at the borrowing of money, &c.

and the person or persons to whom such transfer or assignment shall be made, from and after the time that the same is entered in a book or books to be kept for that purpose, as hereinafter is directed (which entry is hereby required to be made upon request, and producing such assignment, and paying two shillings and six pence for every such entry) shall be well and sufficiently intitled to such annuity or annuities, mortgage monies, and interest, and all the monies due and to grow due thereon.

And it is hereby further enacted, That such assignee or assignees, and every after assignee and assignees, shall and may in like manner, by indorsement or otherwise, without stamp, assign and make over such annuity or annuities, mortgage or mortgages, and mortgage-monies, so assigned as aforesaid, and so *toties quoties*, as occasion shall require; every such assignment being entered in such book as aforesaid.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners shall cause proper books to be made, and kept by their clerk or clerks, treasurer or treasurers, for the time being, for the registering all sums of money which shall be paid and advanced for the purchasing such annuities, or by way of loan or mortgage as aforesaid; wherein the said commissioners shall, from time to time, cause due and regular entries to be made of the sums paid or advanced, the times when paid, and the names of the persons paying the same, and the annuities or rates of interest payable for or in respect thereof; and also the dates of all assignments thereof, and the persons names to whom assigned; and also the times when any such annuity shall determine, or any such principal sum shall be paid off and discharged.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That no sum or sums of money whatsoever shall be agreed for, taken up, or borrowed, for the purchase of any such annuity, or by way of loan or mortgage as afore-

said, by the said commissioners at any such meeting as aforesaid, unless forty commissioners at least shall be then and there present, and consenting and agreeing thereto; and that no further or greater sum or sums of money shall be so agreed for, taken up, or borrowed, by the said commissioners, or any of them, at any one meeting, than the sum of four thousand pounds in the whole.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That when and so soon as all the annuities which shall be granted under the powers and authorities aforesaid, shall be determined, and all arrears thereof paid, and all the monies which shall be borrowed under the powers aforesaid, and all interest due for the same, shall be paid off and satisfied, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said commissioners in general, or the major part of them, who shall be present at their said yearly general meeting, on the said first Monday in July, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, from time to time, to lessen and reduce the rates and taxes which shall be rated or assessed for the said general works of draining, in pursuance of this act, to such sum or sums of money, and in such manner, as they, or the major part of them, who shall be present at such yearly general meeting, shall, from time to time, think proper; any thing herein before-mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

When the annuities shall be determined the rates may be reduced.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners in general for the time being, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly or other general meeting, shall and may from time to time adjourn themselves to meet at such other time or times, at the same place, as they, or the major part of them present, shall think fit; and the said commissioners also shall and may meet at any other time, for putting this act in execution, as often as shall

Adjournments and meetings of commissioners.

be necessary, or required by any five or more of the said commissioners : fourteen days notice being given of every such meeting in the Cambridge and Stamford weekly newspapers, so long as any such newspapers shall continue to be published, and in some one or more of the evening posts published in London.

Commissioners  
to give orders  
for manage-  
ment of the  
works,

and enter into  
contracts,

and appoint  
officers with  
salaries;

And be it further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners in general, or the major part of them, who shall be present at the said yearly meeting on the said first Monday in July, or at any other general meeting to be had by adjournment, or otherwise, in pursuance of the power aforesaid, are hereby empowered to make and give such rules, orders, and directions, for the better and more orderly management of the general works of draining, herein before particularly directed, and every thing relating thereto; and to make and enter into such contracts for the performance of any such work or works, and for supplying materials for the same, as they, or the major part of them present, in their discretions shall think proper; and also at any such yearly general meeting, on the said first Monday in July, to name and appoint a secretary or clerk, and one or more treasurer or treasurers, and one or more surveyor or surveyors of their works, and one or more collector or collectors, receiver or receivers, of the said rates and taxes, an officer to be resident at Clows Cross herein after-mentioned, and such other proper officer or officers as they shall think needful for the taking care of such works, and for collecting, receiving, and safe keeping the rates and taxes so to be assessed and levied as aforesaid; and to allow and appoint, to be paid to such officers out of the said rates and taxes, such yearly or other wages, salaries, and rewards for their trouble and pains in their respective offices, as the said commissioners, or the major part of them that shall be present at any such yearly general meeting, shall think reasonable and proper; and

also for the said commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any general meeting to be had by adjournment, or otherwise, from time to time, to remove and displace all or any of the said officers, and appoint others in their places or steads, as often as they shall see cause: and all and every such treasurer or treasurers, and collector or collectors, receiver or receivers, so to be appointed as aforesaid, before they shall act in the execution of their several offices, shall give security to the said commissioners, or any five or more of them, in trust for the purposes aforesaid, for the due execution of their respective offices and trusts, as the commissioners, or the major part of them who shall be present at any such general meeting, shall in their discretions think fit; so that the security to be given by every such treasurer be not for less than one thousand pounds for himself, with two sufficient sureties, in the penalty of five hundred pounds each; and so that the security to be given by every such collector or receiver be not for less than three hundred pounds for himself, with two sufficient sureties, in the penalty of one hundred pounds each.

and may remove them.

Officers to give security.

And to the end that it may appear, from time to time, what money hath been raised, levied and collected for the said general works of draining by virtue of this act, and how the same hath been applied; be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the commissioners appointed to put this act in execution shall cause one or more fair and regular book or books of assessment of the said rates and taxes, so to be assessed for the said general works of draining, and one or more fair and regular book or books of receipts of the money which shall arise and be received therefrom, and of the disbursements thereof, to be provided and kept by their treasurer or treasurers, collectors or other officers; wherein shall be fairly and regularly entered all and every sum and sums of money that shall be assessed, collected or received, by virtue of

Accounts to be kept of the assessments, receipts, and expenditures.



or under the authority of this act; and how, whom and for what the same, or any part thereof, has been paid, applied or disposed of.

Copies of the accounts to be delivered to the commissioners at their yearly general meeting;

And, to the end, that the said accounts may be examined; be it further enacted by the authority said, That once in every year, on the day here appointed for the said yearly general meeting, the treasurer or treasurers, collector or collectors, or receiver or receivers for the time being, of the said rates and money so to be raised as aforesaid, for the said works of draining, shall attend and deliver to the commissioners, at their said yearly general meeting, copies of their several books of account of the receipts and disbursements of all such sums of money as have been collected or received by them respectively, in virtue of this act, from the first Monday in January next before to that time; and the said commissioners shall select the major part of them, who shall be present at the said yearly general meeting, shall then and there choose, nominate and appoint, a committee, consisting of at least of the said commissioners, whereof two at

committee to be appointed to examine, settle and report the same.

least of the said five districts, to examine and adjust the said accounts, and report the result thereof to the said commissioners, at any of their said yearly general meetings; and the treasurer or treasurers, collector or collectors, or receiver or receivers, shall, with the said rates and sums of money so to be raised as aforesaid, for the said general works of draining, be hereunto to attend the committee so to be appointed, or more of them, with their several books of account, and the receipts and disbursements aforesaid, and to produce the same, at such times and places as the committee, or any five or more of them shall appoint; and such accounts and vouchers being considered and examined by such committee, and oath being taken by the treasurer or treasurers, collector or collectors, or receiver or receivers, of the truth thereof by such treasurer or treasurers,

collectors, receiver or receivers respectively (which oath any two of the said committee are hereby impowered to administer) shall be certified and reported by such committee or any five or more of them, with their opinion thereof, to the said commissioners, at any subsequent general meeting; and the commissioners, or the major part of them, who shall be present at any such general meeting, are hereby impowered to allow and pass such accounts, or such part or parts of the same as they shall see just and reasonable; and all such account or accounts of such part or parts of them, as shall be so allowed and passed by the said commissioners, shall be fairly entered in two or more several sets of books to be kept for that purpose; one set whereof shall be kept with the said commissioners, or their treasurer, for the time being; and another set thereof in a chest to be kept in the Abbey House in Thorney aforesaid, under the care of the steward of his Grace the Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, for the time being: and the said books shall and may be inspected and perused, and extracts taken therefrom, at any time, at seasonable hours, by and at the request of any of the owners or proprietors of any part of the said lands and grounds which shall have been rated or taxed in pursuance of this act, paying one shilling for every such inspection.

Copies of the accounts passed, to be entered in two or more sets of books, &c.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every collector and collectors of the said rates and taxes, so as aforesaid to be assessed for the said general works of draining, shall, from time to time, pay over all and every sum and sums of money which he and they shall, from time to time, collect and receive, for or on account thereof, unto such person or persons as shall be appointed treasurer or treasurers to the said commissioners for the time being, at least twice in every year, in such manner as the said commissioners for the time being, or the major part of them that shall

Collector to pay over the monies to the treasurer.

be present at any general meeting, shall order, direct and appoint.

Collectors or treasurers refusing to account or pay over the monies in their hands, to be committed.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any such collector or collectors, treasurer or treasurers, shall neglect or refuse to account for any sum of money by him or them collected or received in pursuance of this act, to the said commissioners, or any ten or more of them, or to pay over the balance which shall appear to be remaining on account thereof, in his or their hands, to such person or persons as the said commissioners, or any ten or more of them, shall, by writing under their hands, authorize and empower to receive the same; then, and in such case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any two or more justices of the peace of and for the said counties of Northampton, Lincoln and Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely, respectively, at a special sessions to be held for the same, to enquire of and concerning such neglects, refusals, non-payments and offences; and if any such collector or treasurer shall be convicted by the said justices of any such neglect, refusal, non-payment or offences, then the said justices shall, upon such conviction, commit such collector or treasurer to the common gaol of the said counties, or isle, respectively, there to remain without bail or mainprize, until he or they have made a full, true and perfect account and payment as aforesaid.

Meetings and adjournments of the commissioners for the 1st, 2d, and 4th districts.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the several and respective commissioners for the said first, second and fourth districts or divisions, or the major part of them, who shall be present at the said yearly general meeting, or at any other meeting to be had by the commissioners of the said three last-mentioned districts respectively, shall and may, from time to time, adjourn themselves to meet at such other time and times, and place, within or near their respective districts, as they, or the major part of them present, shall think fit; and

the commissioners for the said three last-mentioned districts shall also and may, severally and respectively, meet at any other time and place, within or near their respective districts, for putting in execution the powers hereby vested in them respectively, within their said several and respective districts, as often as shall be necessary, or required by any two or more of the said commissioners respectively, seven days notice in writing being given of every such meeting, at the respective places herein after appointed for the election of the commissioners for the said three last-mentioned districts or divisions respectively; and the several and respective commissioners for the said three last-mentioned districts or divisions, or the major part of them respectively, who shall be present at any such meeting as aforesaid, are hereby empowered to audit and settle their respective accounts, and to make and give such rules, orders and directions, for the better and more orderly management of the money to be raised by the further or additional taxes herein before authorized to be raised within the said three districts respectively, and to name and appoint such collectors and other officers for collecting and keeping the same, and taking care of their particular and respective works, as the said commissioners respectively, or the major part of them present, shall in their discretions think fit.

Their accounts to be audited; and orders made for the application of the additional taxes, and officers, to be appointed.

And for the preventing the damming up, stopping, throwing down, burning, demolishing, destroying or damaging any of the rivers, drains, watercourses, banks, mills, engines, flood-gates, sluices, doors, dams, bridges, or other works already made or erected for or towards draining the lands and grounds contained within the said several districts and divisions, or any of them, or hereafter to be made, erected, supported or maintained for the purposes aforesaid, by virtue of or under the powers and authorities of this act; it is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall, at any

Persons convicted of maliciously destroying or damaging any of the works, to suffer death;



and convicted  
of stopping up,  
&c. any river  
or drain,

to forfeit 100l.

Commissioners  
to maintain the  
banks of Shire  
Drain,

time hereafter maliciously cut, break down, burn  
lish or destroy any bank, mill, engine, flood-gate, or  
already made or erected, or which shall at any time  
after be making or erecting, or made or erected, su  
or maintained, for answering the purposes aforesaid  
person or persons so offending, being thereof convicted  
shall be guilty of felony, and shall suffer death a  
without benefit of clergy: and if any person or  
shall at any time hereafter maliciously stop, dam  
molish, damage or destroy any river, drain, wat  
door, dam, bridge, or other work or works alrea  
or erected, or which shall at any time hereafter be  
or erecting, or made or erected, supported or ma  
for answering the purposes aforesaid, every p  
persons so offending, being thereof convicted b  
two or more justices of the peace for the countie  
aforesaid, or either of them, who are hereby re  
hear and determine the same, on the oath of tw  
credible witnesses, shall forfeit the sum of one  
pounds to the said commissioners, their success  
or assigns, to be applied for the respective pu  
which the said rates and taxes are thereby direc  
respectively applied; and in default of paymen  
the person or persons so offending shall be se  
House of Correction of the county or isle w  
offence shall be committed, there to be kep  
labour for such time as such justices shall  
direct, not exceeding six months.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted an  
by the authority aforesaid, That the commiss  
the time being, for putting this act in executio  
all times hereafter make, support and maintain  
of Shire Drain aforesaid, in as good and s  
plight and condition as the best part of the ba  
said river Old South Eau, within the North I  
are, or at any time hereafter shall be made, sup

maintained; and shall also at all times hereafter make, support and maintain the sluice, flood-gates and doors at Clows Cross aforesaid, of such sufficient strength and condition as to stop, resist and uphold the land-waters, in case any breach or overflowing of the banks of Shire Drain aforesaid shall at any time happen, by means of such land-waters.

and the sluice  
at Clows Cross.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That if at any time hereafter any breach or overflowing of the banks of Shire Drain aforesaid shall happen by means of the land-waters running out of and off the North Level aforesaid into Shire Drain aforesaid; then and in such case, upon notice given to an officer, to be appointed by the said commissioners for that purpose, and to be resident at the Clow aforesaid, by any owner or proprietor of lands within the hundred of Wisbich in the said isle of Ely and county of Cambridge, or within South Holland in the county of Lincoln, the flood-gates or doors of Clows Cross aforesaid shall be immediately shut down by such officer; and in case of such officer's absence from his said place of residence, and in default of such officer's shutting down the said flood-gates or doors immediately after such notice, it shall and may be lawful to and for such owner or proprietor, who shall so give notice as aforesaid, to shut down the same, or cause the same to be shut down; and the said doors or flood-gates, when so shut down, shall continue shut until such breach of bank or overflowing shall be repaired, stopped or discontinued; any power or powers now vested in any person or persons, body corporate or bodies corporate, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

In case the  
banks of Shire  
Drain shall be  
broken or  
overflowed,

the floodgates  
at Clows Cross  
to be shut  
down.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give

Commissioners  
not to exercise  
any other  
power over  
Shire Drain or

Old South Eau River, than the conservators have a right to use.

any further or greater power to the commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any of them, in or over Shire Drain aforesaid, or the said river Old South Eau, or the lands and grounds adjoining thereto, or for the making or erecting any works in or about the same, or other or larger power whatsoever over the said drain (except as aforesaid) than the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens now lawfully may have and use; or to take away from any person or persons whatsoever any right or rights they now lawfully may have in and over the said drains, or either of them; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Conservators not to exercise any power over the commissioners or the works,

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens aforesaid, shall not, at any time hereafter, have, use or exercise any power, jurisdiction or authority whatsoever, over the commissioners named and appointed, and to be named and appointed, elected and chosen for putting this act in execution; or in or over any part of the lands and grounds comprized in any of the said several districts or divisions, or in or over any river, drain, bank, sluice, engine or other work, already made, or hereafter to be made, by virtue of and under the authority of this act, within any of the said several districts, for the purposes herein before mentioned, other than and except the works herein before placed under the particular care, management and direction of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and except the powers and authorities vested in the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, by the said acts of the fifteenth and twentieth years of King Charles the Second, or either of them, for levying, recovering and receiving the taxes chargeable by virtue of

other than over the works put under their particular care.

the said acts of parliament, or one of them, herein before directed to be received and applied by the said corporation, in manner herein before mentioned.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any of them, any power or authority in or over the bank called Dowsdale Bank (being that part of the bank herein before described to be the north-east and north bank of the river Old South Eau, which reaches from Crowland town to Dowsdale) other than and except the power hereby given to the said commissioners of raising and strengthening the said bank, from time to time, according to the dimensions prescribed by this act; but that, subject to the aforesaid power of raising and strengthening the said bank, the said Thomas Orby Hunter, his heirs and assigns, shall continue in the possession, usage and disposal of the said bank called Dowsdale Bank, according to the full intent and meaning of the proviso made in that behalf in the said act of parliament made and passed in the fifteenth year of King Charles the Second, in as full and ample manner, to all intents and purposes, as if this act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said commissioners for putting this act into execution, or any of them, any power or authority in or over such part of the south bank of the said river Old South Eau as is included in the said third district or division, other than and except the power hereby given to the said commissioners of raising and strengthening the said bank, from time to time, according to the dimen-

Limitation of  
commissioners  
power over  
Dowsdale  
Bank ;

and over such  
part of the Old  
South Eau as  
lies in the said  
district ;



sions prescribed by this act; but that, subject to the aforesaid power of raising and strengthening the said bank, the said John Duke of Bedford, his assigns, shall continue in the possession, use and disposal of such part of the said south bank as is in the said third district or division, in as full a manner, to all intents and purposes, as if this had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

and over such part of the south-west bank of the antient branch of the Nene as is included in the first district.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted, declared by the authority aforesaid, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to give to the said commissioners for putting this act in execution, or any of them, any power or authority over such part of the south-west bank of the Old South Eau, otherwise the antient branch of the Nene, as is included in the said first district or division, other than and except the power hereby given to the said commissioners of raising and strengthening the said bank, from time to time, according to the directions prescribed by this act; but that, subject to the said power of raising and strengthening the said bank, the said Henry Earl of Lincoln, his heirs and assigns shall continue in the possession, usage and disposal of such part of the said south-west bank as is included in the said first district or division, in as full and ample a manner, to all intents and purposes, as if this act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Perpetual and annual elective commissioners for the first district.

And, for supplying and continuing a sufficient number of commissioners for putting this act in execution, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Right Honourable Brownlow Earl of Exeter, his heirs and assigns, being owners of the estate then and now seised of within the said first district, and the said Honourable Henry Earl of Lincoln, his heirs

being owner or owners of Highborough Fen and Lowborough Fen, or his or their lawful attorney, shall always be and continue commissioners of and for the said first district or division; and that so many other commissioners of and for the said first district shall be named and appointed annually by the said Henry Earl of Lincoln, his heirs or assigns, and certified under his or their hand or hands to the said commissioners, at their yearly general meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said Earl, his heirs or assigns, or his or their attorney, make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land charged with the said taxes, which the said Earl of Lincoln, his heirs or assigns, shall for the time being be seised and possessed of in his or their own right, within the said first district; and that one other commissioner of and for the said first district and division, shall be named and appointed annually by the lord or lady of the manor of Crowland for the time being, and certified under his or her hand to the said commissioners at their yearly general meeting aforesaid; and that every person, who shall for the time being be seised or possessed of five hundred acres of land, or upwards, within the said first district, and paying the said taxes for the same, in his own right, shall, during the time he shall be so seised or possessed, be a commissioner himself, or name and appoint some other person to be a commissioner in his stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other persons for commissioners, as shall make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land he shall be so seised or possessed of for the time being; and that so many other commissioners of and for the said first district, shall be yearly chosen on the last Monday in June in every year, out of the proprietors or occupiers of lands within the said district, at the town of Ely, by such persons as shall for the time being be seised or possessed of twenty acres of land within the said district, paying the

For the second  
division.

taxes charged by this act, in their own rights same, as together with the said Earl of Lincoln, or assigns, or his or their attorney, and the said commissioners, in right of tenure as aforesaid; commissioners so to be named and appointed as said, shall make one commissioner for every five acres of land charged with the said taxes within first district, over and above the said Earl of Exheirs or assigns; and the persons so elected shall be chosen by the electors, or the major part of them, at their yearly general meeting as aforesaid; that the Right Honourable George Earl of Coventry, his heirs or assigns, being owner of the lands the said Earl is now seised of in Beaulieu Moor, or a person to be yearly named and appointed by him or them, shall always be a commissioner of and for the said second district or division; and that one other person shall be yearly named and appointed by the lord or lord of the manor of Peterborough for the time being: and every person who shall, for the time being, be seised or possessed of five hundred acres of land or upwards within the said second district, and paying the said taxes, shall, during the time he shall be so seised or possessed, be a commissioner of and for the said second district or division; and he shall name and appoint some other person to be a commissioner in his stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other persons for commissioners as shall be necessary to make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land he shall be so seised or possessed of for the time being; and that so many other commissioners for the said second district or division shall be chosen upon the said last Monday in June in every year at the Dog in the Doublet Inn upon the north side of the street as long as the same shall continue an inn or public house, and afterwards at such other place as the prop

lands in the said district shall appoint, out of the proprietors or occupiers of lands within the said district, by such persons as shall, for the time being, be seised or possessed of twenty acres of land in that district, paying the taxes to be charged by this act, in their own rights, for the same, as shall make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land charged with the said taxes within the said second district; all which commissioners for the said second district shall be yearly certified to the said commissioners, at their yearly general meeting, in manner aforesaid; that the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, or his or their lawful attorney, shall be and continue a commissioner of and for the said third district, so long as he or they shall be seised or possessed of five hundred acres of land, in his or their own right, charged with the said taxes within the same; and that so many other commissioners of and for the said third district shall be annually named and appointed by the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, and certified under his or their hand or hands to the said commissioners, at their yearly general meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said John Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, or his or their attorney, make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land charged with the said taxes within the said third district or division; that every person who shall for the time being be seised in possession of five hundred acres of land, or upwards, within the said fourth district or division, and paying taxes for the same, in his or their own right, shall be a commissioner himself for the said fourth district, during the time he shall be so seised or possessed, or name and appoint some other person to be a commissioner in his stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other persons for commissioners, as shall make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land he shall be so seised or possessed of for the time being; and that

For the third  
district.

For the fourth  
district.



For the fifth  
district.

so many more persons, being owners or occupiers of lands in the said fourth district, shall be yearly chosen for commissioners on the said last Monday in June, at or near Clows Cross, by such persons as shall for the time being be seised or possessed of twenty acres of land in the said district, paying the taxes to be charged by this act, in their own rights, for the same, and certified to the said commissioners, at their yearly general meeting, in manner aforesaid, as shall make in the whole one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land charged with the said taxes within the said fourth district; that the said Beverley Butler, his heirs or assigns, being owners of the land now possessed by him in Porsand aforesaid, or one other person to be yearly nominated and appointed by him or them, in his or their stead, and certified in manner aforesaid, shall always be and continue a commissioner for the said fifth district or division for the time being; and that the said Thomas Orby Hunter, his heirs or assigns, or his or their lawful attorney, shall be and continue another commissioner for the said fifth district or division, so long as he or they shall be seised or possessed of five hundred acres of land, in his or their own right, charged with the said taxes within the same; and that so many other persons to be commissioners shall be annually named and appointed by the said Thomas Orby Hunter, his heirs or assigns, and certified in manner aforesaid to the said commissioners at their yearly general meeting aforesaid, as shall make one commissioner for every five hundred acres of land charged with the said taxes within the said fifth district or division, over and above the lands the said Beverley Butler is now possessed of; which said several commissioners so as aforesaid nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nominated and appointed, elected, and chosen, shall, from time to time, be and continue commissioners for putting this act in execution, until

the last Monday in June in the next succeeding year, and from thenceforth until other commissioners shall be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in their respective places and steads.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That every person that shall, for the time being, be seised or possessed of twenty acres of land more than will intitle him to name and appoint one or more commissioners within any of the said districts as aforesaid, and paying taxes for the same, in his own right, shall also be intitled to vote in the election of the other commissioners for the district wherein he shall be seised or possessed.

Qualification of persons intitled to vote in the election of one or more commissioners.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if any person or persons hereby nominated and appointed, or hereafter, by virtue of or under the powers and authorities of this act, to be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, to be a commissioner or commissioners of the said several districts respectively, or any of them, shall die or become disqualified, it shall and may be lawful to and for the several persons herein before-mentioned respectively to elect or choose, nominate or appoint, and certify in manner aforesaid, some other person or persons, properly qualified to be a commissioner or commissioners, in the place or stead of the commissioner or commissioners so dying or becoming disqualified from time to time, as often as occasion shall require; and the commissioner or commissioners so elected or chosen, nominated or appointed, shall, from time to time, have the same powers and authorities as the commissioners hereby nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nominated or appointed, and elected or chosen, in manner aforesaid.

New commissioners to be elected in the room of such as shall die or be disqualified.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, and every of them, before he or they take upon himself or themselves the execution of any of the

Commissioners to take the oath following before they act.

powers or authorities hereby given them (other than the administering the oath or solemn affirmation following to one another) shall take the following oath, or being of the people called Quakers, the following solemn affirmation, *videlicet* ;

I A. B. do swear (or being of the people called Quakers, do solemnly and truly declare and affirm) That I will, without favor or affection, hatred or malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my skill and knowledge, execute and perform all and every the powers and authorities established by an act made in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled " An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln ; and for enabling the proprietors of lands in the North Level, part of the said Great Level, to raise money to discharge the proportion of the said North Level in the debts of the said corporation ; and for ascertaining and appropriating the taxes to be laid on the said North Level ; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland."

which said oath or affirmation any one of the said commissioners is hereby impowered to administer.

Persons holding any place of profit under this act disqualified from voting.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That no person or persons, who shall at any time hereafter be possessed of any place of profit under this act, shall sit or vote, or have any power or authority as commissioners for any of the said districts, during the time he or they shall be possessed of any such place of profit as aforesaid.

Proceedings

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and

declared by the authority aforesaid, That all orders and proceedings of the said commissioners, at their general meetings aforesaid, shall be entered in a book or books to be kept for that purpose, and such orders so entered shall be signed by five or more of the commissioners assembled at such meetings, and by the clerk or clerks to the said commissioners; and such orders so signed, shall be deemed and taken to be original orders, as fully and effectually as if the same were under the hands and seals of the major part of the commissioners then assembled; which said book or books, and also the book hereby directed to be kept for registering the securities, assignments and transfers aforesaid, shall and may be produced and read in evidence in all cases of suits or actions, touching any thing done in pursuance and by the authority of this act.

and orders of  
commissioners  
to be entered  
and signed.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That if any action, suit or information shall be commenced or prosecuted against any person or persons for any thing done or to be done in pursuance of this act, or in execution of any of the powers and authorities hereby given, every such action, suit or information shall be commenced or prosecuted within twelve months next after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid or brought in the said counties of Northampton, Lincoln and Cambridge, or the Isle of Ely, or one of them, and not elsewhere; and the defendant or defendants in such action or suit shall and may plead the general issue, *not guilty*; and if in replevin, may justify and avow by virtue of this act, as persons acting under and by the authority of commissioners of sewers are enabled to do, and give this act, and the special matter in evidence, without specially pleading the same (other than as aforesaid) at any trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in pursuance, and by the authority of this act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such

Limitation of  
actions.

General issue.



action or suit shall be brought after the time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other county, then the jury shall find for the defendant or defendants, avowant or avowants; or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit or forbear prosecution, or discontinue his or their suit or suits; or if any judgment shall be given against him, her or them, upon demurrer, or otherwise, then in any of the said cases, the defendant or defendants, and avowant or avowants, shall recover double costs; for which he, she or they, shall have like remedy as where costs by law are awarded.

Double costs.

Right of lords  
of manors re-  
served to them;

Provided always, and be it hereby enacted, That all such right or rights as any lord or lords of any manor or manors, liberties, hundred or half-hundred, have therefore had within his or their respective manor or manors, liberties, hundred or half-hundred, within or without the said several districts or divisions, or any of them, to waifs, estrays, felons goods, privileges of arrests, escheats and all other royalties, not prejudicial to the draining, be hereby saved to them, their heirs, successors and assigns, severally and respectively; any thing in this act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

and of the con-  
servators and  
others.

Saving also, and always reserving unto the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, and to all and every other person and persons, his, her and their heirs, executors and administrators, all such lawful rights, powers, jurisdictions and authorities now vested in and enjoyed by them, as are not hereby taken away, altered or repealed.

Publick act.

And be it further enacted, That this act shall be deemed, taken and allowed to be a publick act; and all judges, justices, and other persons, are hereby required to take notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

## No. XXVI.

## NENE NAVIGATION ACT.

1684.

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Anno vicesimo septimo GEORGII II. Regis.

*An Act for improving and preserving the Navigation from Salter's Load Sluice, in the County of Norfolk, to Standground Sluice, in the County of Huntingdon, and from Flood's Ferry, in the Isle of Ely, in the County of Cambridge, to Ramsey High Load, in the said County of Huntingdon; and also the Navigation from Old Bedford Sluice, in the said County of Norfolk, to the River Nene, in the Parish of Ramsey, in the said County of Huntingdon.*

WHEREAS the navigation from the port of King's Lynn to Standground Sluice, near the city of Peterborough, was anciently carried on from Salthirn Load, otherwise Salter's Load Sluice, in the county of Norfolk, through Well Creek, and the river Nene, to Flood's Ferry, in the county of Cambridge; and from thence through Ramsey Meer, Ugg Meer, and Whittlesea Meer, in the county of Huntingdon; but the navigation through the said meers being, at all times, extremely tedious, difficult, and dangerous, and very frequently altogether impracticable, the navigation from the said port of King's Lynn to Standground Sluice aforesaid has, for

Preamble.

many years, been carried on from Flood's Ferry aforesaid, through a certain drain called Whittlesea Dike, being the safest and nearest passage:

And whereas the navigation from the parish of Ramsey, and the adjacent places, to the said port of King's Lynn, will be most conveniently carried on by Flood's Ferry through the river Nene, Well Creek, and Salter's Load aforesaid:

And whereas the navigation from the towns of Charteris, Maney, and Welney, to the said port of King's Lynn, has for many years been chiefly carried on through a certain drain, called the Forty-foot Drain, and the Old Bedford River:

And whereas the trade carried on upon the said river, and through the said creek and drains, is greatly increased, and it is become necessary to clean, deepen, widen, and scour the said rivers, creek, and drains; which cannot be effected without a considerable expence:

And whereas the preserving and improving of the said navigations will be a great and general advantage to the said port of King's Lynn and the city of Peterborough, and to all the towns and villages situate near the said rivers, and to the whole adjacent country:

*May it therefore please your Majesty,*

Commissioners  
appointed.

That it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, for the time being; the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council of the corporation of King's Lynn, for the time being, together with ten inhabitants of the city of Peterborough; six

inhabitants of the town of Whittlesea, being owners of lands in the Middle Level, within the said Great Level of the Fens; six inhabitants of the parish of Doddington, with its members; that is to say, one inhabitant of the town of Doddington, one inhabitant of the town of Benwick, one inhabitant of the town of Wimblington, and three inhabitants of the town of March, being respectively owners of lands in the said Middle Level; four inhabitants of the parish of Ramsey, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; two inhabitants of the parish of Chateris, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; two inhabitants of the town of Maney, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; two inhabitants of the town of Welney, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; four inhabitants of the parish of Upwell, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; two inhabitants of the parish of Outwell, being owners of lands in the said Middle Level; four inhabitants of the parish of Downham, in the county of Norfolk; two inhabitants of the parish of Thrapston; two inhabitants of the parish of Islip; two inhabitants of the parish of Oundle; two inhabitants of the parish of Yaxley; two inhabitants of the parish of Fletton; two inhabitants of the parish of Elton; and two inhabitants of the parish of Thornhaugh with Wandsford; to be respectively chosen, as hereinafter is directed; shall be commissioners for preserving and improving the navigation from Salthirn Load, otherwise Salter's Load, through Well Creek to the town of Outwell, and from thence through the river Nene by the towns of Upwell and March, directly to Flood's Ferry aforesaid, and from thence to a place called Ramsey High Load; and also for improving and preserving the navigation from Flood's Ferry through Whittlesea Dike to Standground Sluice aforesaid; and also the navigation from Old Bedford Sluice, through the Old Bedford River and the Forty-



foot Drain, to the river Nene, in the said parish of Ramsey; and for putting in execution all other the powers and authorities by this act granted.

Commissioners for Peterborough, and the several towns, to be chosen annually by the inhabitants;

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That such of the inhabitants of the city of Peterborough, and of the said several towns and parishes of Whittlesea, Doddington, with its members, Ramsey, Charteris, Maney, Welney, Upwell, Outwell, Downham, Thrapston, Islip, Oundle, Yaxley, Fletton, Elton, and Thornhaugh with Wandsford, respectively, as have right to assemble in the vestries of their respective towns, parishes, or chapelries, shall meet in their respective vestries upon Monday in Easter-week, in the year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and shall also meet in like manner upon Monday in Easter-week in every succeeding year; and choose such of the inhabitants of the said city, towns, and parishes respectively, as the major part of the inhabitants then present, shall think proper (not exceeding the respective numbers hereinbefore limited) to be commissioners for the said city, towns, and parishes respectively, together with the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, and with the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common council of the borough of King's Lynn, for putting this act in execution.

and to be certified by the churchwardens.

And be it further enacted, That the churchwardens of the parish of Saint John the Baptist, in the city of Peterborough, and also the churchwarden or churchwardens, chapelwarden or chapelwardens, of each of the said other respective places, shall transmit a certificate, under their or his hands or hand, containing the names and descriptions of the several persons, who shall be chosen commissioners for the said city, and for the said respective places, to the other commissioners by this act appointed, at the next meeting to be held after the commissioners for the said city, and for the said respective places, shall

be chosen ; which certificate shall be in the form following ; that is to say,

THESE are to certify, that of Form of a certificate.  
the city of Peterborough (or of in the  
county of ) are (or is) chosen commis-  
sioners (or a commissioner) for the said city, or for the  
parish or town of in the county of  
to put in execution an act, made in the twenty-seventh  
year of the reign of King George the Second, intituled,  
“ An Act for improving and preserving the navigation  
from Salter’s Load Sluice, in the county of Norfolk, to  
Standground Sluice, in the county of Huntingdon, and  
from Flood’s Ferry, in the Isle of Ely, in the county of  
Cambridge, to Ramsey High Load, in the said county  
of Huntingdon ; and also the navigation from Old Bed-  
ford Sluice, in the said county of Norfolk, to the river  
Nene, in the parish of Ramsey, in the said county of  
Huntingdon.” Given under my hand (or our hands)  
this day of

And that the sum of two shillings and sixpence, and no more, shall be paid to, or for the use of, the churchwarden or churchwardens, chapelwarden or chapelwardens, signing such certificate, and shall be charged upon the tolls to be collected in pursuance of this act.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That if the inhabitants of the said city, or of any of the places aforesaid, shall in any year neglect to choose commissioners upon the said Monday in Easter-week, then, and in such case, the majority of the other commissioners, present at the next meeting after the said Monday in Easter-week, shall nominate the like number of inhabitants of the said city, or of such place or places respectively, as by this act are directed to be chosen, to be commissioners for the said city, or for such place or places respectively ;

Commissioners  
for Peterbo-  
rough, and the  
several towns,  
to be appointed  
by the other  
commissioners,  
if not chosen  
by the inhabit-  
ants.



and the commissioners nominated, as aforesaid, shall be joined with the other commissioners, and shall be, and are hereby, empowered to act in as full and ample manner, as if they had been chosen by the inhabitants of the said city, or of such place or places respectively, in manner herein before directed.

In case of vacancy, new commissioners to be chosen.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That in case of any vacancy by the death, disqualification or resignation of any commissioner for the said city, or for any of the places aforesaid, another commissioner shall be chosen by the inhabitants of the said city, or of such place respectively, within the space of one calendar month after such vacancy shall happen; and notice shall be given in the parish church of the said city, or in the church or chapel of such place respectively, and shall be affixed on the door of the said church or chapel, that on a certain day, to be specified in such notice (eight days at the least intervening between the day so specified, and the time, when such notice shall be given) a meeting will be held for the choice of a commissioner, as aforesaid: and in case the said inhabitants shall refuse or neglect to choose such commissioner within the time before limited, then it shall be lawful for the surviving or remaining commissioners, or commissioner, for the said city, or for such place respectively, where such vacancy shall happen, or the major part of them, by writing under their or his hands or hand, and seals or seal, to appoint an inhabitant of the said city, or of such place respectively, to be a commissioner in the room of the person so deceased, disqualified, or resigning; and in case the said surviving or remaining commissioners or commissioner shall neglect or refuse to appoint such commissioner within the space of one calendar month, after the time before limited for the choice of such commissioner by the inhabitants of the said city, or of such place respectively, shall be elapsed, then it shall be law-

ful for the other commissioners, at their next meeting after the expiration of the said two calendar months, to appoint an inhabitant of the said city, or of such place respectively, where such vacancy shall happen, to be a commissioner in the room of the person so deceased, disqualified or resigning: and, in any of the said cases, the person so chosen or appointed as aforesaid, shall have the like power and authority, as the other commissioners, appointed by or in pursuance of this act, are invested with.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted, That no person shall be capable of acting as a commissioner in any case in the execution of this act, unless he shall be in the actual possession, enjoyment, or receipt of the rents and profits of an estate of the clear yearly value of twenty pounds; or shall be possessed of a personal estate alone, or a real and personal estate together, of the value of five hundred pounds; or shall be heir apparent to a person in possession of an estate of the clear yearly value of one hundred pounds: and if any person, not qualified as aforesaid, shall presume to act as a commissioner in the execution of this act, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds; to be recovered, with full costs of suit, by any person who will inform or sue for the same, in any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster, by action of debt, or upon the case, bill, suit or information; wherein no essoign, protection, privilege or wager of law, nor more than one imparlance, shall be allowed; and in which action or suit it shall be only necessary for the plaintiff, or informer, to prove, that the defendant acted as a commissioner in the execution of this act; and a verdict shall be found against the defendant, unless he shall prove in his defence, that he was, at the time of his so acting, qualified according to the true intent and meaning of this act.

Qualification of  
commissioners.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid,

Commissioners  
to meet in ro-



tation at March,  
Downham, and  
Peterborough.

That the first meeting of the said commissioners shall be held on the twelfth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, at the town of March in the isle of Ely, in the county of Cambridge; and that the second meeting of the said commissioners shall be held at the town of Downham, in the county of Norfolk; and that the third meeting of the said commissioners shall be held at the city of Peterborough, in the county of Northampton: and that the said commissioners may meet, from time to time, by adjournment, or otherwise, at each of the said places, in the order and course hereinafter prescribed as often as they shall think proper; not less than nine of the said commissioners (whereof four at the least to be commissioners for the said city, or for some or one of the several places aforesaid, empowered by this act to choose commissioners) being present at every such meeting.

A general meeting to be held annually in March.

Provided always, That a general meeting of the said commissioners shall be annually held at the said town of March, upon the third Thursday in August; and that all meetings of the said commissioners, in the intervals between the said general meetings, shall be held, in rotation, at the said towns of March and Downham, and the said city of Peterborough, except where a meeting shall be appointed to be held by notice only, and not by adjournment; in which case, such meetings shall be held at the place next in rotation to the place where the next meeting is appointed to be held by adjournment.

Commissioners to adjourn *de die in diem*.

Provided also, and be it enacted, That the said commissioners shall, at every meeting, have full power and authority to adjourn *de die in diem*, and meet again at the same place, until the business to be transacted at such meeting shall be completed: and that the said commissioners, at all and several their meetings to put this act, or any part thereof, into execution, shall, out of their

and defray their own expences.

own private monies, pay and defray all their own charges and expences.

And be it further enacted, That notice in writing, of every meeting of the said commissioners (except of the meetings to be held by adjournment *de die in diem*, as aforesaid) shall be signed by nine or more of the said commissioners, and affixed upon the market-cross, or in some other public place, in the cities of Peterborough and Ely, and in the town of Lynn, Downham, Chateris, March, Ramsey, and Upwell, aforesaid; and shall be published in the Northampton, Stamford, Cambridge and Ipswich Journals, and in one of the Evening Posts in London (so long as such newspapers shall continue to be published) fourteen days at least before every such meeting.

Notice to be given of meetings.

Provided always, That no meeting shall be held at any of the said three places within the space of six days before the twenty-ninth day of August and the twenty-ninth day of September in any year; or within the space of three days after the said twenty-ninth day of August and twenty-ninth day of September, or during the time of Lynn Mart; or within the space of three days before or after the said mart; or in the week in the month of April wherein a meeting of the governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens is held at Ely; or in Whitsun-week, wherein another meeting of the said governor, bailiffs and conservators is held at London.

Meetings not to be held at certain times of the year.

\*And, for defraying the necessary expences of putting this act in execution, and of carrying on and completing the said navigations, be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That at each of the sluices, called Stand-ground Sluice, Salthirn, otherwise Salter's Load Sluice,

The Tolls.

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\* The revenues of the Nene Commissioners are intended to be increased by the provisions and regulations of an act passed 34 G. 3, c. 92, (1794) "for making and maintaining a navigable canal from Wisbech River, at or near a

and Old Bedford Sluice, there shall be paid to the collector or collectors, to be appointed as hereinafter directed, for the respective goods following; that is to say, for every chaldron of coals, Lynn measure; for every hundred of battens; for every half hundred of deals; for every load of timber, accounting forty to the load, Calliper measure; for every eight pack of wool, accounting ten tod to the pack; for every v of salt; for every load of wheat, rape-seed, lin cole-seed, barley, rye, peas or beans, accounting quarters to the load; for every last of oats, or big; for every two thousand of turf; for every l reed, sedge, hay, flax or hemp, reckoning twenty dred weight to the load; for every last of mal every thousand of tiles; for every five hundred of for every twenty feet of stone; and for every ch of lime; the sum of three pence; and the like three pence for every ton weight of all other wares, merchandises or commodities whatsoever; in proportion for any greater or less quantity or w which said sums shall and may be demanded and in the name of, or as, a toll or duty; and shall l by every person who shall carry or convey any through the said sluices, up or down the said creek or drains; and the monies to be receiv hereby vested in the said commissioners, and s applied and disposed of for the several uses and p of this act, and to no other use or purpose what and in case of neglect or denial of payment of t

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place called the Old Sluice, in the town of Wisbech, in the isle of county of Cambridge, to join the river Nene, in the parish of Outw said isle of Ely, and in the county of Norfolk; and for improving: taining the navigation of the said river from Outwell Church to Sal Sluice."

The following clauses relate to those provisions and regulation to 72. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L.

toll or duty, on demand, the said collector or collectors are hereby authorized and required to seize and detain any of the said goods or commodities, or the vessels carrying the same; and in case the said tolls or duties shall not be paid within three days after such seizure, it shall be lawful for the said collector or collectors to sell the goods or commodities, or the vessels carrying the same, so seized and detained as aforesaid; rendering the overplus (if any) to the owners, after the said tolls or duties, together with the reasonable charges of seizing, detaining and selling the said goods or commodities, or vessels carrying the same, shall be satisfied and paid.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That this act shall not extend to restrain any person from keeping a pleasure-boat, for the purpose of rowing or sailing upon the said rivers, creek or drains, as he or she shall think fit; nor shall any toll or duty be demanded upon account of such pleasure boat, so as no goods or merchandize be carried therein.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That oil-cakes, malt-dust, pigeons' dung, and all other manure and compost, of any nature or kind whatsoever, shall have free passage upon the said rivers, and through all and each of the said sluices, without being subject to any toll or duty; any thing in this act contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding.

Provided nevertheless, that such oil-cakes, as are made of lin-seed, shall not be deemed manure within the meaning of this act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall, at their first meeting, to be held at the town of March aforesaid, have full power and authority, by writing under their hands and seals, to nominate and appoint such person or persons as they shall think fit, to be collector or collectors of the tolls and duties hereby

Pleasure boats,

and manure  
exempted from  
toll.

Except lin-seed  
oil cakes.

Commissioners  
to appoint col-  
lectors, and  
other officers.



Collectors, and  
treasurer to  
give security.

granted ; and also such person, as they shall think fit, to be treasurer or receiver of the several sums of money arising by such tolls and duties, and of all other monies to be raised, levied and paid by or under the authority of this act (such collector or collectors giving bond, with two sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, for the due payment, to the treasurer, of all money to be collected by him or them ; and such treasurer or receiver also giving bond, with two sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, in the penalty of two thousand pounds, for the due application of, and accounting for, the monies by him to be received) ; and shall also administer an oath to such collector or collectors, for the true and faithful executing of his or their office in or about the premises : and the said collector or collectors shall, upon the first Monday in every month, or oftener, if required by the said commissioners or any nine or more of them, by writing under their hands and seals, pay, or cause to be paid, into the hands of the said treasurer or receiver, all and every the sum and sums of money, which he or they, the said collector or collectors, shall have collected or received, by virtue of this act : and the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their first meeting as aforesaid, have full power and authority, by writing under their hands and seals, to nominate and appoint a clerk, and surveyor or surveyors, for doing all other matters and things, which may be necessary to be performed in execution of this act : and such collector or collectors, treasurer or receiver, clerk, and surveyor or surveyors, to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be allowed, out of the monies to be raised by virtue of this act, for their care and pains in executing their respective offices, so much as the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall think reasonable ; and shall be, from time

to time, removeable, at the will and pleasure of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid: and all vacancies which shall happen by death, resignation or removal of any of the said officers, shall be filled up by the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, at the first meeting to be held after any such vacancy shall happen; and the person or persons so appointed, upon any such vacancy, shall, unless removed by the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, at some subsequent meeting, continue in his or their respective office or offices until the aforesaid annual meeting of the said commissioners upon the third Thursday in August; at which time the commissioners then assembled, or the major part of them, shall have full power and authority either to confirm and continue the person or persons, so appointed, in their respective offices, or to remove and displace them, as they shall think proper, and appoint others in their stead: and, in case of the death of any collector or collectors, the said treasurer or receiver shall have full power and authority to appoint such person or persons as he shall think proper, to collect and receive the tolls and duties hereby granted, till the next meeting of the said commissioners, such person or persons giving such security as aforesaid.

Provided always, That the person or persons to be appointed collector or collectors of the said tolls and duties, shall not be the same person or persons as shall be keeper or keepers of any of the sluices herein before-mentioned.

Collectors not to be keepers of the sluices.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted, That the keepers of the said sluices, called Standground Sluice, Salthirn, otherwise Salters Load Sluice, and Old Bedford Sluice, shall, from time to time, be appointed and paid by the corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, and be under their direction.

Sluice-keepers to be appointed and paid by the corporation of Bedford Level.

Account of  
goods carried  
upon the river  
to be given to  
collectors.

Penalty on re-  
fusal.

Commissioners  
impowered to  
borrow money  
by assignment  
of the tolls.

And, to the intent that the quantity and value of such goods and commodities, as shall, at any time, be carried or conveyed up or down the said rivers and drains, may be discovered and known, and that the tolls by this act granted may be justly and duly levied, it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That every man or other person, who shall at any time carry or convey up or down the said rivers, creek or drains, any goods, wares and merchandizes whatsoever, shall, on demand, give to the said collector or collectors a true and full account, according to the best of his knowledge and belief, of the quantity and quality of all such goods, wares and merchandizes, and of the name or names of the respective owner or owners thereof; which account being put into writing by the said collector or collectors, or the said waterman, or other person, shall set his name or mark to the same; and if he shall refuse to do, or shall deliver in a false or untrue account, for every such refusal or untrue account so delivered in, forfeit the sum of forty shillings, above the tolls or duties payable for such goods and merchandizes, by virtue of this act; to be recovered by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person so offending, by warrant under the hand and seal of the justice of the peace for the county, liberty or place where such offence shall be committed: and the person so offending shall not have sufficient security for the satisfaction of the said forfeiture, until he shall be lawfully satisfied; and it shall be lawful for the said justice, or any other justice of the peace for the said county, liberty or place, to commit the person so offending to the house of correction there to remain without bail for the space of three calendar months, unless the said forfeiture shall be sooner paid.

And, to the end that a sufficient sum of money may be speedily raised for the purposes of this act, it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That

commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them (eight of them, at least, being commissioners for the city or places aforesaid) shall have full power and authority, at any meeting to be held for that purpose, whereof previous notice shall be given in manner before directed, fourteen days at least before the time of such meeting, from time to time, to borrow any sum or sums of money which they shall think necessary, not exceeding the sum of three thousand pounds at any one meeting, and to convey and assign, by writing or writings under their hands and seals, the tolls and duties granted by this act, or any part thereof, to any person or persons who shall lend or advance to the said commissioners any sum or sums of money; and the duties so conveyed and assigned, as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby made a security for the re-payment of the money so advanced or lent, with legal or less interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, or the major part of them, and the person or persons lending or advancing such money; which said money, so to be borrowed, shall be applied and disposed of as the said tolls or duties, by this act granted, are directed to be applied and disposed of, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That copies of all and every the assignment or assignments, so to be made by the commissioners as aforesaid, shall be registered or entered at length in a book or books to be kept for that purpose by the said clerk, or the said treasurer or receiver; which said book or books shall and may be seen and perused, at all seasonable times, by any person or persons whomsoever, without fee or reward.

Assignments to be registered with the clerk or treasurer.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That all and every person or persons, to whom any assignment or assignments of the said tolls or duties

Securities transferable by indorsement.



shall be made as aforesaid, or who shall be intitled to the money thereby secured, shall and may, from time to time, by proper words of assignments, to be indorsed on the back of his, her or their security, or by any other writing or writings under his, her or their hand and seal, or hands and seals, to be duly executed in the presence of two or more credible witnesses, assign or transfer his, her or their right, title, interest or benefit to the principal and interest-money thereby secured, or any part thereof, to any person or persons whomsoever; which said transfer or assignment shall, within three months after the date thereof, be produced and notified to the said clerk, or the said treasurer or receiver; who shall cause an entry or memorial of such assignment or transfer, containing the date, parties and sum of money therein mentioned to be transferred, to be made in the said book, to be kept for the entering of the said original assignments; for which the said clerk, treasurer or receiver shall be paid the sum of two shillings and six pence, and no more: and after such entry made, such assignment shall intitle such assignee, his, her and their executors, administrators and assigns, to the benefit thereof, and payment thereon; and such assignee may, in like manner, assign again, and so *toties quoties*: and it shall not be in the power of such person or persons, who shall have made such assignment, to make void, release or discharge the same, or any monies thereby due, or any part thereof.

Application of  
the money to  
be raised.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That if the sum agreed to be paid by the said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, towards defraying the expences of procuring this act, shall not be sufficient for that purpose, the residue of the said expences shall, in the first place, be satisfied and paid out of the money to be raised or collected in pursuance of this act; and that after such expences shall be satisfied and paid as afore-

said, all the money to be raised or collected, as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in the payment of such sums as shall become due and payable by virtue of this act; and in scouring, cleansing, widening and deepening the said creek, called Well Creek, from Salthirn, otherwise Salters Load aforesaid, to the town of Outwell; and also the river Nene, through the said towns Outwell, Upwell and March, directly to Flood's Ferry, and from thence to Ramsey High Load aforesaid; and in preserving and improving in like manner, the navigation from Flood's Ferry through Whittlesea Dike to Standground Sluice aforesaid; and also in scouring and deepening the Old Bedford River, from the Old Bedford Sluice to Welch's Dam, and the Forty-foot Drain, from Welch's Dam to the river Nene, in the parish of Ramsey aforesaid; and in making, maintaining and securing a free haling-way, for the better carrying on of the said navigations, and in repairing the damages which shall be done to the banks by haling thereon; and in such other works, not being prejudicial to the draining of the country, as the commissioners assembled, as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, order and direct.

Provided always, That a distinct and separate account shall be kept of the tolls to be collected at Salters Load and Standground Sluices, and of the tolls to be collected at the Old Bedford Sluice; and that the tolls or duties to be collected at Salters Load Sluice, and Standground Sluice, shall be applied to and laid out in the improving of the navigation betwixt the said two sluices, and from Flood's Ferry, up the river Nene, to Ramsey High Load aforesaid, only, and not in the improvement of the other navigation, through the Old Bedford Sluice; and that the tolls or duties, to be collected at the Old Bedford Sluice, shall be applied towards scouring and deepening the Old Bedford River, and the Forty-foot Drain, to the

Distinct accounts to be kept.

river Nene, as aforesaid, and to no other use or whatsoever.

Twenty-five commissioners to be present at the borrowing of money or ordering of any new works to be undertaken.

Nine to be a quorum for other matters.

Commissioners to employ, or contract with persons for improving the navigation;

Provided also, and be it further enacted, money shall be borrowed, nor any new works or be undertaken, at any meeting of the said commissioners unless previous public notice shall have been thereof, in manner before directed, fourteen days before such meeting; nor unless twenty-five of the commissioners (whereof eight at least shall be commissioners for the city or places aforesaid) shall be present at such meeting; but that any nine or more of the commissioners (four commissioners for the city aforesaid at least being present) assembled as aforesaid shall have full power and authority to put in execution all other matters and things by this act directed to be performed by the said commissioners.

And be it further enacted, by the authority of the said commissioners, or any twenty-five of them, assembled as aforesaid, and not otherwise, that they shall have full power and authority to employ, or contract with, any person or persons, for the performance of the works they shall think necessary to be done, in pursuance of this act, for preserving and improving the navigations, or any part thereof; such contracts may be made at such time or times, and under such conditions as the said commissioners, or the major part of them, as aforesaid, shall think proper: and the persons employed, or contracted with, as aforesaid, agents, servants and workmen, are hereby authorized and empowered to open, cut, cleanse, scour, deepen, or straighten the said rivers, creek and drains, or any part thereof, within the limits aforesaid, making the same at places where it is possible to be done, thirty feet wide at the bottom, forty feet wide at the top, and three feet or at the least than any of the adjacent fen-dik

remove and take away all trees, roots of trees, dirt, gravel, or sand-beds, which may hinder or obstruct the said navigations; and to do and perform all other matters and things, not being prejudicial to the draining of the country, which the commissioners shall judge necessary or convenient, for improving and maintaining the said navigations.

Provided nevertheless, that the said commissioners shall not erect, or cause to be erected, any sluice, plough, or other works, in or upon the Old Bedford River (except the Pen Sluice hereinafter directed to be made at the mouth of the said river) or in or upon the said forty-foot drain, or between the ford called Ashlines Gravel and Salters Load Sluice aforesaid, or between Flood's Ferry and Ramsey High Load; and that the sluice now erected above Ashlines Gravel aforesaid, shall not be raised higher from the threshold than five feet nine inches, the present height of the said sluice.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners shall have full power and authority to make a pen sluice, for stopping the water at Horsey Bridge, in the county of Huntingdon, and to prevent the waters, taken into the river Nene at Stand-ground Sluice, from flowing out of the said river, and Whittlesea Dike aforesaid; and also to make, set out and appoint towing-paths, and haling-ways upon the banks of the said creek, called Well Creek, and of the said river Nene, from Salthirn Load Sluice to March Bridge; and from thence along the south-east bank of the said river, over Borrough Moor Common, to Borrough Moor severals; and from thence along the north-west bank of the said river, to Flood's Ferry aforesaid; and from thence along the south bank of Whittlesea Dike to Angle Bridge; and from thence along the north bank of the said dike to Ashlines Gravel; and from thence

but not to erect sluices in certain parts of the river, &c.

Sluice at Ashlines Gravel not to be raised higher than at present.

Pen Sluice to be made at Horsey Bridge.

Haling-ways described.



along the south bank of the said dike to V Bridge; and from thence along the south bank said River Nene to Standground Sluice aforesaid also to set out haling-ways on the banks of the Nene, from Flood's Ferry to Ramsey High Loan said; for towing and drawing, with men or horses and other vessels, passing through or upon the river and dike, in such manner as the said commissioners shall think convenient; first making satisfaction to the respective owners or proprietors of any lands, tenements or hereditaments, which shall be digged, cut down, or otherwise made use of, for all or any of the purposes aforesaid, for any damage such owners or proprietors shall or may sustain thereby.

Nine commissioners may receive proposals for any works to be done;

but not to contract.

Commissioners empowered to purchase lands for the use of the navigation.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That any more of the said commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, in case no greater number shall be present, shall have full power and authority to treat with, or receive proposals from, any person or persons who shall be willing to agree or contract for the performance of any work to be done in pursuance of this act; but no agreement or contract shall be finally made, or entered into, for any such purpose, unless at some meeting, at which at least five of the said commissioners (eight being the number of the said commissioners for the city or places aforesaid) shall be present, of which the said commissioners, to whom such proposals shall have been delivered, shall give four days notice at least, in manner before directed, specifying such notice, the occasion and design of such meeting.

And, for the better effecting of the premises, and to the end that the said navigations may be carried on and preserved in the most effectual manner, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, shall have full power and authority

with the owners or proprietors of any lands, tenements or hereditaments which they the said commissioners shall judge necessary to be cut, digged, pulled down or otherwise made use of, for the purposes of this act; and also to adjust and settle what proportion of the sum, so agreed to be paid upon account of such lands, tenements or hereditaments, shall be given to any tenant, or other person, having a particular estate, term or interest in any of the premisses: and this act shall be sufficient to indemnify the said commissioners, and all persons employed or authorized by them, against such owners or proprietors, their heirs, administrators, or assigns, as if such lands, tenements or hereditaments had been sold by deed of feoffment, bargain and sale, or other assurance in the law, done by fine and recovery, or any other way whatsoever.

And whereas it may happen, that some persons, or bodies politick, corporate or collegiate, feoffees in trust, or others, who are seised of some lands, tenements or hereditaments, which may be thought necessary to be purchased for the purposes aforesaid, may be willing to treat and agree for the sale of such lands, tenements or hereditaments, but by reason of infancy, coverture or other disability, may be incapable of selling or conveying the same; be it therefore further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for all bodies politick, corporate or collegiate, corporations aggregate or sole, and all feoffees in trust, executors, administrators, guardians, or other trustees for and on behalf of any infants, femmes covert, or cestui que trusts, and all other persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seised or possessed of, or interested in, any such lands, tenements or hereditaments, to contract and agree with the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, for the purchase of such lands, tenements or hereditaments, or of their interest therein, for the purposes afore-

Bodies politick and trustees, empowered to sell.

said; and to sell and convey the same, as occasion be or require: and all contracts, agreements, sales, conveyances which shall be so made, shall be valid to all intents and purposes; any law, statute, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding: and all feoffees in trust, executors, administrators, guardians, and trustees, corporation collectors, aggregate or sole, and all other persons, shall be indemnified for what they do by and in pursuance of this act.

In case of  
refusal to  
treat or agree.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that if any person or persons, bodies politick, corporate or collegiate, or other person or persons, seised or possessed of, or interested in, any lands tenements or hereditaments, which may be necessary to be purchased for the purposes aforesaid, shall, for the space of ten day notice in writing to him, her or them given, or left at his dwelling-house or place of abode of such person or persons, or of the head officer or officers of such body politick, corporate or collegiate, or at the house of the tenant in possession of the said lands, tenements or hereditaments, neglect or refuse to treat, or shall not appear in the premisses, or, by reason of absence, shall be prevented from treating; then, and in every or any such case, the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them assembled as aforesaid, shall be and they are hereby empowered to issue their warrant or warrants to the justices of the county, or the high bailiff of the Isle of Ely at the time being, respectively, where such lands, tenements or hereditaments shall lie or be situate; and they are hereby required to impanel and return before them a jury of commissioners, or any nine or more of them, as aforesaid, at such time and place as in such warrant or warrants shall be appointed, twenty-four substantial and disinterested persons of the said county, or the Isle of Ely, respectively, qualified to serve on juries, to

A jury to be  
summoned.

that out of them, a jury of twelve men may be sworn, to inquire touching the matters in question: and in default of a sufficient number of jurymen appearing at the time and place mentioned in such warrant or warrants, the said sheriff, or high bailiff, or his deputy respectively, shall return other honest and indifferent persons, qualified as aforesaid, who can speedily be procured to attend that service, to make up the number of twelve: and the said jury shall, upon their oaths, to be administered by the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the premisses (which oath they are hereby impowered and required to administer) inquire into, assess and award what recompence and satisfaction shall be made to the person or persons seised or possessed of, or interested in, such lands, tenements or hereditaments, or any part thereof, for his, her or their respective estates and interests in the same: and upon such verdict, the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the premisses, shall give judgment for the sum or sums so awarded and assessed, and shall order the same to be paid to the person or persons intitled thereto; and such verdict and judgment, and order thereupon, shall be binding and conclusive, to all intents and purposes, against the said parties, and all others claiming or to claim, in possession, reversion, remainder, or otherwise, their heirs and successors, as well absent or present, infants, femmes covert, and persons under any other disability whatsoever, bodies politick, corporate and collegiate, and all and every other person and persons whomsoever; and, being put into writing, under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall be delivered to the clerk of the peace of the county, liberty or place where such verdict shall have been given, to be kept amongst the records of the sessions of such county, liberty or place; and the same, or a copy thereof, shall be admitted as evidence in all courts whatsoever: and all

who shall assess the recompense of the parties interested.



and every person and persons any way interested in such lands, tenements or hereditaments, shall, from thenceforth be, to all intents and purposes, divested of all right, title, claim, interest or property in, to, or out of the same.

Commissioners  
impowered to  
summon and  
examine wit-  
nesses:

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the premisses, shall have full power and authority to summon any witnesses (not being a peer or peeress of Great Britain) who may be thought proper to be examined, to attend and give evidence before any jury, to be impannelled and summoned for the purposes aforesaid; and also to administer an oath to, and examine all such witnesses, or any other witnesses, who may be produced before such jury; and shall also order or cause the said jury to view the place or places in question, and use all other lawful ways and means, as well for their own as for the better information of the jury, in the premisses, as they the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the premisses, shall think fit; and that all persons concerned shall have their lawful challenges against any of the said jurymen, when they come to be sworn: and the said commissioners or any nine or more of them, acting in the premisses, shall have power, from time to time, to impose any fine or fines, not exceeding the sum of twenty pounds, upon such sheriff or high bailiff, or his deputy, respectively, making default in the premisses; and also a fine not exceeding five pounds nor less than forty shillings, upon any witness who shall refuse to attend, or be sworn, or to give evidence; and upon any of the persons, who, being duly summoned and returned upon any jury, shall not appear (unless some reasonable cause of his or their absence shall be proved, to the satisfaction of the said commissioners acting in the premisses) or shall refuse to be sworn on the said jury, or, being sworn, shall not give his or their verdict, or shall in any other manner wilfully

And to im-  
pose fines upon  
the sheriff, or  
any witness  
or jurymen,  
neglecting  
their duty.

neglect his or their duty in the premisses, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act : which fine or fines, respectively, shall and may, in default of payment thereof, upon demand, be levied and recovered by warrant under the hands and seals of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the party or parties offending, or wilfully making default in the premisses.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That all and every sum and sums of money, or recompence, to be agreed for, or assessed and awarded as aforesaid, and also the charges attending such purchase, assessment or reward, shall be, and is and are hereby charged upon the tolls by this act granted, or upon any money to be borrowed upon the credit of the said tolls ; and shall be paid thereout accordingly to the persons respectively intitled thereto, or to their respective agents ; and that, upon payment or tender thereof to such persons, or their agents, or, in case of their refusal to accept the same, upon leaving the same in the hands of the clerk to the said commissioners, for the use of such persons the said commissioners, and all other persons authorized or employed by them, shall have full power and authority to enter upon the said premisses, and to cause such lands, tenements or hereditaments to be cut, digged, pulled down, or otherwise made use of, for the purposes of the said navigations ; and shall be, and are hereby, indemnified for so doing, against such persons, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns.

Purchase-money charged upon the tolls.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners shall from time to time, and at all times hereafter, maintain and keep in repair such towing-paths or haling-ways upon the banks of the said river, creek and drain, as shall be made and set out as aforesaid, except such part thereof as is a publick and common highway ; and also shall, where wanting, set up,

Commissioners to keep towing-paths in repair :

and erect  
bridges, where  
any new cuts  
are made, or  
fords rendered  
dangerous or  
impassable.

and from time to time maintain convenient gates, passages and stiles, in or upon the banks or lands adjoining to the said river, creek and drain, where any towing-paths or haling-ways shall be made and set out as aforesaid: And also, if the said commissioners, or any person or persons authorized by them, as aforesaid, shall find it necessary to make any new cuts or trenches, by reason whereof the owners or occupiers of any lands, tenements or hereditaments may not have such convenient access thereto, or passage from thence, as they before enjoyed; or shall find it necessary to deepen the said river so much, in any part thereof, where there are fords or highways over the same, that such fords or highways may be thereby rendered impassable or dangerous; then, and in any of the said cases, the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall first cause a sufficient bridge or bridges to be erected where such new cuts or trenches shall be intended to be made, and where such fords or highways now are; and shall, from time to time, maintain and keep the said bridges in repair, for the convenience and accommodation of all persons having occasion to pass over the same.

Owners of  
lands to repair  
the banks, in  
case of a  
breach:

or in case of  
danger of a  
breach, if the  
commissioners  
neglect to  
repair them.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted, That if any part of the banks of the said rivers, creek or drains, which, by this act, are to be kept in repair by the said commissioners, shall at any time be broke down, it shall and may be lawful for the owner or occupier of the lands, where such breach shall happen, to cause the same immediately to be repaired; such owner or occupier giving notice directly to some officer of the said commissioners, that such breach has happened; or if any part of the banks of the said rivers, creek or drains shall be in danger of a breach, and notice of such danger shall be given, in writing, to any of the agents or servants of the said commissioners, by the owners or occupiers of the lands lying against such banks, and the agents or

servants of the said commissioners shall neglect to repair the same for the space of four days, that then it shall and may be lawful for the owners or occupiers of the lands where danger of such breach shall be, to cause the said banks to be repaired; and, in either of the cases aforesaid, the monies expended thereon shall, upon demand, be reimbursed to such owner or occupier out of the tolls to be collected by virtue of this act.

And be it further enacted, That the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level, shall, at their own expence, cause to be erected a pair of ebb-doors at Salters Load Sluice, and also another pair of ebb-doors at Old Bedford Sluice aforesaid, which respective doors shall be seven feet three inches high: and that the said doors, and also the said sluices at Standground Salthirn, otherwise Salters Load, and Old Bedford, shall remain under the care and management of, and from time to time, be kept in repair by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty.

Provided always, That the said commissioners, appointed by or in pursuance of this act, shall cause a pair of gates to be erected at the mouth of Old Bedford River aforesaid, in order to the making of a pen-sluice there; and shall also pay into the hands of the receiver to the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, the sum of fifteen pounds annually out of the tolls to be collected at Old Bedford Sluice aforesaid, and also the sum of thirty pounds annually, out of the tolls to be collected at Standground and Salthirn otherwise Salters Load Sluices aforesaid, by virtue of this act, in order to defray the expences of erecting, altering and keeping in repair the said ebb-doors and sluices: And also that it shall be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, with the money arising from their own taxes and revenues, from time to time, to cleanse, deepen and scour out any

Corporations  
of Bedford  
Level to erect  
ebb-doors at  
Salters Load  
and Old Bedford;

and to keep  
sluices in repair.

Commissioners  
to erect a pair  
of gates at Old  
Bedford;

and pay forty-  
five pounds  
annually to the  
corporation;

who may  
cleanse the  
rivers, and  
repair the  
banks, at their  
own expence.



APPENDIX.

part or parts of the Old Bedford River and the foot Drain, and to strengthen and repair any parts of the banks of the said rivers, creek and without any lett or obstruction from the commis appointed by or in pursuance of this act.

**Commissioners to repair the sluices, if the corporation neglect upon notice;**

Provided also, That if at any time the said go bailiffs and commonalty shall not keep the sa doors or sluices in repair, and shall neglect to re same for the space of ten days after notice, in shall have been given by the surveyor, appointed said commissioners, to the said governor, bail commonalty, or to any of the keepers of the said that such repairs are necessary, it shall be lawfu said commissioners, or any person or persons au by them as aforesaid, to cause the said ebb- sluices to be repaired; and the money expended repairs shall and may be deducted out of the re annual sums, or either of them, herein before dir be paid by the said commissioners to the said g bailiffs and commonalty.

**and to be re-imbursed.**

**Navigation to be under the sole power of the commis- sioners.**

Provided also, and it is hereby further enact the improvement and preservation of the said tions, and the several works already erected c erected, and every other matter and thing hereby to be done for that purpose (except as herein l excepted) shall be wholly under the managemen tion and controul of the said commissioners, i not be under the survey or orders, nor subject to troul, of the said corporation of the Great Lev Fens, except only in those cases wherein the poration shall proceed by presentment, and a commissioners of sewers; any law or statute to trary in any wise notwithstanding: And that th to be raised by virtue of this act, shall be ap disposed of in such manner as the said comm

shall, from time to time, order and appoint, and as herein before is directed concerning the same, and in no other manner whatsoever.

Provided also, and it is further enacted, That the drain called Marshland Cut, or the Tongs Drain, shall not at any time be run, unless upon a breach of bank, or in case of imminent danger thereof, or unless the water in the said rivers be raised more than one foot above the level soil of the lowest lands in the fens, nor, in any of the said cases, without an order in writing signed by ten of the said commissioners; whereof five to be commissioners for the said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, or for the borough of King's Lynn; and the other five to be commissioners for the city of Peterborough, or the places aforesaid.

Proviso concerning the Tongs Drain.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That where any tunnel shall be made for taking water out of the said rivers, creek or drains, into the fens or low grounds, the bottom of such tunnel shall not at any time be laid more than two feet lower than the surface of the adjacent lands; and that, where any tunnel shall be laid, for taking any water out of the said rivers, creek or drains into the high lands, the bottom of such tunnel shall at all times be laid upon the same level with those in the low or fen grounds; to the end that such a quantity of water may at all times be kept in the said river, as the commissioners, or their agents, shall think proper; and that the same may be constantly maintained of a sufficient depth for the use of the said navigations: And if any person shall offend in the premises, by laying the bottom of any tunnel lower than herein before is limited and prescribed, and shall be lawfully convicted thereof, before any justice of the peace of the county or place where such offence shall be committed, he or she so offending, shall for every such offence forfeit, to the use of the person giving information thereof, the sum of five

Tunnels not to be laid above a certain depth.

Penalty for offending therein.

pounds, to be recovered by distress and sale of the owner's good and chattels, by warrant under the hand and seal of the justice, before whom he or she shall be convicted as aforesaid.

Tunnels laid lower than limited, to be taken up.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the commissioners, or any one or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, to cause any tunnel, which is or shall be laid lower than here limited, to be taken up, or otherwise stopped, in any manner as they shall think most proper.

Commissioners to make orders for improving the navigations, and regulating watermen, &c.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall have full power and authority, at any meetings as aforesaid, from time to time, to make any orders and decrees for improving and preserving the navigations, in pursuance of this act, and for regulating the manner of haling upon the banks of the said creek and drains, and for the well governing the watermen and boatmen using the said navigations; they the said commissioners shall think proper and convenient.

Owners of boats, &c. to make satisfaction for damages.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That every boatmaster, and owner of any boat or other vessel, which shall pass up or down any rivers, creek or drains, shall be and is hereby answerable, and shall make satisfaction, for any mischief which shall be done by his or her boat or other vessel, or by any of the crew thereof, in or upon the weirs, locks, dams, sluices, or other works, to be erected or maintained, by authority of any act in that behalf made, and also for any damage or trespass which shall be done or committed by his or her boat, lighter, or other vessel, or by his or her horses or servants, to or upon any lands, or tenements adjoining to the said river or drains; which satisfaction shall and may be recovered, with full costs of suit, by action at law, or on the case, in any court of record:

And, for preventing damages, mischiefs, and trespasses, which may be done or committed by rude and disorderly persons, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any waterman, or other person, having the care and management of any boat or other vessel, shall lay such boat or vessel so as to obstruct the passage of other boats or vessels, or hinder the opening or shutting of any of the said locks or sluices, and shall not, when required, immediately remove the same; or if any person shall throw any dirt, gravel, soil, or other annoyance, into the waters, within the limits of the said navigations; or shall wilfully offend against any order or decree made by the said commissioners, as aforesaid; such waterman, or other person, so offending, shall and may, by the authority of this act, and without any other warrant, be apprehended by the constable of the parish or place where such offender shall be found, and carried before any justice of the peace for the same county or place; who, upon proof of the complaint, by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses (which oath the said justice is hereby impowered and required to administer) or by the confession of the party accused, shall impose such fine upon the offender, as the said justice shall think reasonable, not exceeding five pounds nor less than twenty shillings; to be levied by distress and sale of such boat or vessel, or of any of the goods and chattels of the offender, by warrant under the hand and seal of such justice; and, for want of sufficient distress, such offender shall, by like warrant, be committed to the house of correction; there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding three months, nor less than one month, at the discretion of such justice.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That if any person shall think himself aggrieved by the order or judgment of any justice of the peace, upon account of any offence against this act, such person shall have liberty

Penalty on persons causing any annoyance to the navigation, or offending against any order of the commissioners.

Persons aggrieved by order of any justice to appeal to quarter sessions.



to appeal to the justices at the next general or quarter session to be held for the county or place, wherein such order or judgment shall have been made or given; the person so appealing giving security, to the satisfaction of the said justice, to prosecute such appeal with effect, and to pay the costs, which shall be ascertained by the said general or quarter session, in case such order or judgment shall be affirmed: And the justices in the said general or quarter session are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the said appeal, and to make such order therein, as to them shall appear just; which order shall be final and conclusive to all parties; and shall not be removeable by writ of *Certiorari*, or otherwise, into any of his Majesty's courts of record at Westminster or elsewhere.

Whose order  
is to be final.

Proceedings  
not to be  
quashed for  
want of form.

Application of  
the forfeitures.

Provided nevertheless, That no order or judgment of any justice of the peace shall be quashed or vacated for want of form only.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the respective penalties and forfeitures by this act inflicted (the application whereof is not herein particularly directed) shall be paid into the hands of the treasurer or receiver of the monies, to be raised by virtue of this act; and shall be applied and disposed of for the use of the said navigations, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

Clause to prevent the breaking down of the banks.

And for preventing the breaking down or damaging any of the works, which shall be erected or made in pursuance of this act, Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons shall wilfully and maliciously cut, break down, damage, or destroy any banks, or other works, erected or made for the purposes aforesaid, such person or persons shall be adjudged guilty of felony; and shall be subject and liable to the like pains and penalties, as in case of felony: And the courts, by and before whom such person or persons shall be

tried, shall have full power and authority to transport such felons for the space of seven years, in like manner as other felons are directed to be transported by the laws and statutes of this realm.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them, assembled at their annual meeting aforesaid, upon the third Thursday in August, shall have full power and authority from time to time, to lessen or reduce the tolls by this act granted, if they the said commissioners shall think proper; and also to raise and augment the same again, as they the said commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them, assembled at their annual meeting as aforesaid, or the major part of them so assembled, shall judge necessary; so as no greater tolls be, at any time, demanded or taken, than are by this act granted and made payable.

*Commissioners  
impowered to  
lessen the tolls;  
and raise the  
same again, if  
they think fit.*

And to the end that the said commissioners may, from time to time, be enabled to determine what tolls or duties may be necessary to be raised for the purposes of this act, and that the respective sums of money to be collected, levied, and borrowed, by virtue thereof, may be duly accounted for, Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the treasurer or receiver to be appointed as herein before is directed, shall fairly set down and enter in one or more book or books to be kept for that purpose, an account of all monies by him received and disbursed, in pursuance of this act; specifying, in the said account, the times when, and the persons from and to whom such monies were received or disbursed, and for what uses and purposes; which book or books, or a true copy thereof, signed by the said treasurer or receiver, shall be delivered to the said commissioners, at their annual meeting aforesaid, upon the third Thursday in August, and also at such other meetings as the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall re-

*Treasurer and  
collectors to  
account.*



quire the same; and the said treasurer or receiver shall also verify the said book or books upon oath, if thereunto required by the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid; who are hereby impowered to administer such oath, and also to discharge such treasurer or receiver of all such monies as he shall have fairly and truly accounted for, as aforesaid: And the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their annual meeting as aforesaid, and at such other meetings as they shall think proper, summon before them, and, if they think fit, examine upon oath (which oath the said commissioners are hereby impowered to administer) the collector or collectors, clerk, surveyor or surveyors, and persons employed in or entrusted with the receipt or expenditure of all or any of the monies to be raised by virtue of this act; which collector or collectors, clerk, surveyor or surveyors, and persons employed or entrusted as aforesaid, are hereby required to render to the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, a true, exact and perfect account, in writing, of all and every the sum and sums of money so by them respectively received or expended as aforesaid: And in case the said treasurer or receiver, collector or collectors, clerk, or any other officer or person employed or entrusted as aforesaid, shall be found in arrear, or refuse to account, or to pay the money due upon the balance of such account, according to the orders and directions of the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, by warrant or warrants under their hands and seals, to levy, by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the person or persons so found in arrear, or refusing to account, or to pay the money due upon the balance of such account, such sum or sums of money, as he or they shall

be required to account for, or as shall be found due upon the balance of his or their account; and for want of sufficient distress, it shall be lawful for the said commissioners, or any nine or more of them, by like warrant or warrants under their hands and seals, to commit such person or persons to the common gaol of the county, city or place where the said commissioners shall be then assembled, there to remain without bail, until he or they shall have made a true account and payment as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any action, suit or information shall be commenced or prosecuted against any person, for any thing done in pursuance or execution of this act, the person sued shall and may plead the general issue; and, upon any issue joined, may give this act and the special matter in evidence; and if, in any such suit, the plaintiff or prosecutor shall become nonsuit, or forbear prosecution, or suffer a discontinuance; or if a verdict shall pass against him, or judgment be given against him, upon a demurrer; then, in any of the said cases, the defendant shall recover treble costs, and have the like remedy for the same, as any defendant or defendants hath or have for costs of suit, in any other cases, by law.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter, or take away, any of the rights, powers or authorities which, by an act made in the fifteenth year of the reign of King Charles the Second (intituled, *# An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level*") or by any other act, statute or otherwise, are vested in the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty; except such rights, powers or authorities as are by this act altered or taken away; or to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter, or take away, any of the rights, powers or authorities of the

Limitation of actions.

General issue.

Treble costs.

Rights of the corporation of Bedford Level saved.



APPENDIX.

said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, Bedford Level, as commissioners of sewers, acting in presentment, and trial by a jury.

Public act.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid That this act shall be taken and allowed in all parts within this kingdom as a publick act; and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices, and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

No. XXVII.

FIRST BOND ACT.

29 GEO. II. c. 9.

*An Act for establishing a Fund for Payment of the Debts of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the City of London, and for exchanging the Bonds of the said Corporation for other Bonds out of the Revenues of the Middle and South Part of the said Great Level; and for enabling the said Corporation to borrow further Sums, for the Use of the said Great Level.*

Preamble, reciting clauses in act 15 Car.

WHEREAS by an act of parliament made in the year of the reign of King Charles the Second, in

“ An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level,” taking notice that Francis Earl of Bedford, according to a law of sewers, made at King’s Lynn in the sixth year of the reign of King Charles the First, had undertaken the draining of the said Great Level, situate within the counties of Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge and Huntingdon, and the isle of Ely, and bounded as in the said act is particularly mentioned and described; and that he, the said Earl, was to have for his recompence ninety-five thousand acres of the grounds within the said level, with convenient highways and passages to the same; and that William Earl of Bedford, son and heir of the said Earl Francis, with divers of his adventurers and participants, had proceeded in the completing and finishing of the said works; but that the same could not be preserved without constant care, great charge, and orderly government; it was therefore, amongst other things, enacted, That the said William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as in the said act is contained, should be a body politic and corporate, in deed and name, and have succession for ever, by the name of The Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens; with power to lay taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand acres only (twelve thousand acres whereof had been designed and intended for his late Majesty King Charles the First, and had been set forth and allotted by bounds in severalty) for the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, and to levy the same with penalties for non-payment, and to do all other things in order to the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level and Works made and to be made, in such manner as in the said act is mentioned: and

2., for draining  
Bedford Level.

20 Car. 2.

whereas by another act made in the twentieth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled, "An act for the taxing and assessing of the lands of the adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens," it was enacted, that eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should from time to time be taxed and assessed by a gradual acre-tax, of different sorts and values of lands; and that the said twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should be taxed as a medium of the whole tax, to be from time to time assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres; and to the end that the said eighty-three thousand acres might be more equally taxed by a gradual tax, certain persons in the same act named, were appointed surveyors and valuers of the said eighty-three thousand acres; and were, within the time limited by the act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into a number of sorts and degrees, not under the number of seven sorts and degrees, and to rate and tax such degrees, and digest the same into schedules in writing, and make returns thereof, upon their oaths, into the Fen Office, in such manner as by the said act is prescribed: And whereas by valuations made by the several persons appointed by the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and duly returned into the office of the said corporation in London, the said eighty-three thousand acres were set out and digested into eleven different sorts and degrees of land, and the several sums to be rated and assessed upon each of the said sorts and degrees, as their respective proportions of the taxes to be paid to the said corporation were by the said valuations settled and limited; and the said eighty-three thousand acres have always since been taxed by a gradual acre-tax, according to the degrees and proportions so set out and allotted, and the said twelve thousand acres at a medium of such tax; a single tax upon the said eighty-

three thousand acres, together with the produce of a proportionable tax upon the said twelve thousand acres, amounting to the sum of five thousand and fifty-one pounds seven shillings and two pence: And whereas by and 27 Geo. 2. another act made in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said North Level; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland;" taking notice (amongst other things) that at a court of the said corporation, held the tenth day of March, one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said corporation declared, that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several names of the North Level, Middle Level, and South Level; and also taking notice that the said corporation, in order to support and preserve the several works for draining the said Great Level, had been obliged to borrow money and contract debts, amounting in the whole to the sum of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three pounds eleven shillings and nine pence; it was amongst other things, enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, and all and every the lands, taxes, rents and revenues of the said corporation, should be absolutely discharged from the sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds eleven shillings and nine pence



(part of the said debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three pounds eleven shillings and ninepence) due and owing to the most noble John Duke of Bedford, and the Right Honourable Henry Earl of Lincoln, who are the owners of the greatest part of the lands lying within the said North Level; and that the sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds, to be raised from the taxable lands lying within the said North Level, in the manner by the said act directed, should, when raised, be applied in discharge of the proportion of the said North Level of and in the residue of the said debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred fifty-three pounds eleven shillings and nine pence; And it was by the said last-mentioned act also further enacted and declared, That the taxes chargeable by virtue of the said acts of the fifteenth and twentieth years of King Charles the Second, upon the taxable lands within the said North Level, should be always thereafter fixed and settled upon so much thereof as shall be part of the said eighty-three thousand acres at a tax and a quarter, and on so much thereof as shall be part of the said twelve thousand acres, in proportion thereto, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and should not be lessened or increased under any pretence whatsoever; and that all the money which should arise or be produced by the said taxes, within the said North Level, and all other the rents and revenues arising and payable to the said corporation, by, from or out of the said North Level, or any part thereof, should from thenceforth be applied and disposed of by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and their successors, in and about the several banks and works of the said North Level, in the said act particularly mentioned, and to and for no other purpose whatsoever; and that the said North Level, and all and singular the lands, tenements, rents, taxes, and revenues thereof should be freed, exonerated, and dis-

charged of and from the residue of the said debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three pounds eleven shillings and nine pence, and all interest, payable for and in respect thereof; and that the said North Level, or the lands, rents, revenues, and taxes thereof, or of any part thereof, should not be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, or sum or sums of money, which should at any time thereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed by the said corporation, for or on account of the said Middle or South Levels, or either of them; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and taxes of them, or either of them, should not be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, or sum or sums of money whatsoever, which should at any time thereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said corporation, on account of the said North Level: And whereas the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds has been raised and applied in pursuance of the said act of the twenty-seventh year of his present Majesty's reign; and the said corporation have also, since the making of the said last-mentioned act, paid off the sum of one thousand pounds, in farther part of the said debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three pounds eleven shillings and nine pence, over and besides the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds raised and applied as aforesaid; whereby the debt of the said corporation is reduced to the sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds: And whereas the said debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds is secured by bonds, under the seal of the said corporation, who have thereby bound and obliged themselves to pay the several sums mentioned in the said respective bonds; and inasmuch as the said sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds is, by the said act of the twenty-seventh year of his present

Majesty, become a charge upon the said Middle and South Levels only, it is become necessary to exchange the bonds for securing the said debt and to mention the new bonds to be given for that purpose, the money so to be secured is due from the said Middle and South Levels only: And whereas doubts have arisen amongst the creditors of the said corporation, concerning the securities they now have for their respective shares by reason that the said corporation have it in their power, under the before-mentioned acts of the first and twentieth of King Charles the Second, either to sell such parts of the said ninety-five thousand acres within the said Middle and South Levels, with very little taxes, or not to tax the same at all, whereby the money for the payment of the debts, due to the said creditors may become deficient: And whereas the said corporation may have occasion to borrow further sums of money for the support and preservation of the said Great Level and it will be necessary to distinguish in all future contracts to be entered into by the said corporation, whether the money borrowed upon such bonds be for or on account of the said Middle and South Levels, or for or on account of the said North Level: To the end therefore that a sufficient fund may be at all times hereafter raised and secured for payment of the bonds of the said corporation and that the bonds given by the said corporation for the said sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, may be exchanged as aforesaid; and that the said corporation may be enabled to borrow such further sums as shall be necessary for the support and preservation of the said Great Level; and that distinction may be given for the money which shall be so borrowed upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and upon account of the said North Level; be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal



and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That during such time as any debt or sum of money shall be due and owing from or upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, all such parts of the said eighty-three thousand acres as lie within the said Levels, or either of them, shall yearly and every year be, and the same are, hereby rated, taxed, charged and assessed by and with a single gradual acre tax; and such parts of the said twelve thousand acres as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with a medium of such single gradual acre-tax, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and the valuations made in pursuance thereof.

A single tax to be laid upon the Middle and South Levels during the continuance of any debt thereon.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, from time to time, to rate, charge, tax or assess all such parts of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and twelve thousand acres, as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with any farther tax which they, the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, shall judge necessary, in the same manner as they might have done before the making of this act.

Corporation empowered to lay a farther tax, if necessary.

And be it further enacted, That in lieu of the bonds heretofore given by the said corporation, for securing the payment of the said debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall give other bonds under the common seal of the said corporation, for the respective sums due to the person or persons possessed of such bonds, mentioning in the bond, so to be given, that the money secured thereby is due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; and all and singular the rents, taxes and revenues of the said Middle and South Levels shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a security for, and shall be

New bonds to be given in lieu of the bonds for the present debt.



charged and chargeable with, the payment of the mentioned in such bonds, and all interest due and come due thereupon.

Corporation  
empowered to  
borrow for the  
use of the  
North Level,  
not exceeding  
5000*l*.

And to the end that the said corporation may be times enabled to raise such sums of money as shall be necessary for the support and preservation of the Great Level, and for defraying the other necessities attending the same; be it further enacted that it shall be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any seven or more of them, whereof the governor, or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, with the consent of the Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, or lords, lady or ladies, of the manor of Thorney, the Earl of Lincoln, his heirs or assigns, owner or of High and Low Borough Fen, from time to time borrow upon bonds, under the common seal of the corporation, such sum or sums of money as the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the use of the said North Level, not exceeding in the whole the sum of five thousand pounds; declaring

that the money secured thereby, is due and owing upon account of the said North Level; and that any sum or sums of money which they the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the use of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, so as the borrowing of such sum or sums the debt of the corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, be not at any time made to exceed, in the whole the sum of the thirty-two thousand pounds; and in the bonds to be given for such sum or sums, the money secured thereby is due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; And the rents, taxes, and revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels, shall be, and

and any sum  
for the Middle  
and South  
Levels, so as  
the whole debt  
do not exceed  
32,000*l*.

are hereby made a security for repayment of the sums so respectively to be borrowed, with legal or less interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said corporation and the person or persons lending such money; but no money, to be borrowed upon account of the said North Level, shall be charged or chargeable upon any of the rents, taxes or revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them; nor shall any money, to be borrowed on account of the said Middle and South Levels, be charged or chargeable upon any of the rents, taxes or revenues of the said North Level, or any part thereof.

Money borrowed for the North Level, not to be chargeable on the Middle and South Levels; and *vice versa*.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That all bonds to be hereafter given by the said corporation, shall be numbered, beginning with number one, and so proceeding in arithmetical progression; and that no bond shall be given for any greater or less sum than one hundred pounds.

Bonds to be numbered; and none to be given for more than 100*l*.

And be it further enacted, That all bonds to be given by the said corporation, shall be transferrable or assignable by indorsement upon the original bond, without stamps\*, to any person or persons whomsoever; and such transfer or assignment being produced to the register of the said corporation, and by him entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, (which entry the said register is hereby required to make upon request, the person producing such transfer or assignment, paying the sum of two shillings and sixpence for every such entry) shall entitle the person or persons to whom such transfer or assignment shall be made, his, her or their executors, administrators or assigns, to the money secured by such bond, and all interest due or to grow due thereupon,

To be transferrable without stamps.

Assignments to be entered by the register of the corporation.

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\* Since this act an act hath passed to make a stamp necessary on the assignment of all bonds, given as security by commissioners of turnpikes, for purposes of draining navigable canals, &c.

And such assignee or assignees may, in like manner, indorsement without stamp, assign and transfer any bond or bonds so assigned as aforesaid; and as to the *quoties*, as occasion shall require; every such assignment being entered in such book as aforesaid.

Money, raised by the corporation upon the taxable lands in the respective Levels, how to be applied.

And be it further enacted, That all and singular rents, taxes and sums of money to be received, raised or levied by the said corporation, from, upon, or upon account of such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie within the said North Level, shall be chargeable, in the first place, with the payment of such sums of money as shall at any time hereafter be borrowed by the said corporation upon account of the said North Level, and the interest of such sums; and in the said act of the twenty-seventh year of his Majesty's reign to the contrary thereof in any thing notwithstanding: and that all and singular the rents and sums of money to be received, raised or levied by the said corporation, from, upon, or upon account of such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first place, with the payment of the aforesaid debt of twenty thousand four hundred and forty pounds, and of such other sums of money as shall be borrowed upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and of the interest of such debt and sums of money: and the power of the said corporation is hereby impowered and authorized to pay out of the first money which shall from time to time come to his hands, arising from the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level, to pay the interest of such bonds as shall be entered into upon account of the said North Level, and also the principal and interest of such bonds, upon six months' notice before the same shall be due, at the office of the said corporation, by the person or persons possessed of such bonds.

Bonds to be paid off, upon six months notice given at the Fen Office.

the said receiver is also hereby impowered and required, out of the first money which shall from time to time come to his hands, arising from the rents, taxes and revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, to pay the interest of such bonds as shall be entered into upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and also the principal money due upon such bonds, upon like notice left at the office of the said corporation.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That in case any of the bonds to be given by the said corporation, upon account of the said North Level, or upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, shall not be paid by the said receiver, pursuant to such notice left or given as aforesaid, then the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels, shall respectively vest in the person or persons possessed of such bonds, until the same, together with all interest due thereupon, shall be fully satisfied and paid; and such person or persons, their executors, administrators or assigns, shall have the same power, rights, and privileges of recovering the said rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level, and of the said Middle and South Levels respectively, as the said corporation would have had in case such bonds had been regularly and fully satisfied and paid.

If not paid, revenues of the corporation to vest in the possessors of the bonds till payment.

And be it further enacted, That a distinct account shall, from time to time, be kept of the rents, taxes, revenues and sums of money arising and payable to the said corporation within the said North Level, and of all monies which shall be applied and disposed of for the use or upon the account of the said North Level, or any part thereof; and that a like account shall from time to time be kept of the rents, taxes, revenues, and sums of money, arising and payable to the said corporation within the said Middle and South Levels, and of all

Distinct accounts to be kept of the revenues of the respective lands.



monies which shall be applied and disposed of for the use or upon account of the said Middle and South Level, or either of them.

Publick Act. And be it further enacted and declared, That this act shall be deemed and allowed, in all courts within this kingdom, to be a publick act; and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all judges, justices, and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

## No. XXVIII.

### 1771. SECOND NORTH LEVEL ACT.

11 Geo. III. c. 78.

*An Act to enable the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, to complete and maintain the principal Banks and Works, necessary to the well draining and preserving the North Level, part of the said Great Level, and for laying Taxes upon the Lands within the said North Level, and on divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland.*

Preamble reciting Act 15 Car. 2. WHEREAS by an act made in fifteenth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled "An Act for draining the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford

Level." It was, amongst other things enacted, that William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of Francis Earl of Bedford, and the said Earl William or either of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as in the said act is contained, should be a body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, and have succession for ever, by the name of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, with power to lay taxes upon ninety-five thousand acres of land, allotted as a recompence for draining the said Great Level, (twelve thousand acres whereof had been designed and intended for his late Majesty King Charles the first, and had been set forth and allotted by bounds in severalty) for the support, maintenance, and preservation of the said Great Level, and works made and to be made in such manner as in the said act is mentioned.

And whereas, by an act made in the twentieth year of King Charles the Second, intituled "An Act for taxing and assessing of the lands of the adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens." It was enacted, that eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should from time to time be taxed and assessed by a gradual acre-tax, of different sorts and values of land; and that the said twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should be rated at a medium of the whole tax, to be from time to time assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres; and to the end that the said eighty-three thousand acres might be more equally rated by a gradual acre-tax, certain persons in the said act named were appointed surveyors and valuers of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and were within the time limited by the said act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into a number of sorts and degrees, not under the number of seven sorts and degrees, and to rate and tax such degrees, And 20 Car. 2.

and digest the same into schedules in writing, and returns thereof upon their oaths into the Fen-office in such manner as by the said act is prescribed.

And 27 Geo. 2. And whereas, by another act made in the twentieth year of the reign of King George the Second, intituled, "An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the City of London, and the Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens commonly called Bedford Level, from a debt due to the said Corporation of the Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, and for enabling the proprietors of Lands in the North Level, part of the Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the principal and interest of the said North Level, in the Debts of the said Corporation, and for ascertaining and appropriating the said Money to be laid on the said North Level; and for the effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto in the Manor of Bedfordshire, and in the County of Bedford;" reciting, amongst other things, that the views and surveys of the said North Level were returned by them to the Fen Office, as by the said act of the twentieth year of King Charles the Second was directed; and that eighty-three thousand acres had always since been allotted according to the degrees and proportions thereof, and allotted, it was (amongst other things) enacted, in order to raise money sufficient to discharge the principal and interest of one thousand eight hundred pounds, ascertained to be the proportion of the said North Level, and in the debts of the said corporation, contrary to the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty, that it should and might be lawful to allow the proprietors of taxable lands within the said North Level to purchase off so much of the taxes charged upon the respective lands by virtue of, or under the said acts of parliament of the fifteenth and twentieth years of the reign of his said late Majesty King Charles the Second, at and after the rate of thirty years

computing and settling the said taxes on the said eighty-three thousand acres at a tax and a quarter, and on the said twelve thousand acres in proportion thereto, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, as should be sufficient to raise the said sum of one thousand eight hundred pounds. And it was thereby further enacted, that the taxes chargeable by virtue of and under the said acts of the fifteenth and twentieth of King Charles the Second, or either of them, upon the residue of the taxable lands within the said North Level, should be always then after, and were thereby fixed and settled upon so much thereof as should be part of the said eighty-three thousand acres at a tax and a quarter; and on so much thereof as should be part of the said twelve thousand acres, in proportion thereto, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and should not be lessened or increased, under any pretence whatsoever; and that all the money which should arise or be produced by the said taxes within the said North Level, and all other the rents and revenues arising and payable to the said corporation, by, from, or out of the said North Level, or any part thereof, should from thenceforth be applied and disposed of, by the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, and their successors, in and about the several banks of the said Level therein and hereafter mentioned, (that is to say) in the first place, to raise, make good, and keep in repair the north bank of Moreton's Leame, the east bank of Cordyke from Moreton's Leame to the Folly Bank, the Folly Bank from Cordyke to the River Welland, the bank reaching from the Folly Bank to Peakirk Town; and the south bank of the River Welland to the West Dam at the west end of Crowland Town, until the said banks should be made of such a height and strenght as the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty or their successors should judge sufficient to defend the said North Level and South Holland, from and against the land floods; and from and after the



APPENDIX.

banks aforesaid should be put into such a state of repair as aforesaid, then the said taxes, rents, and revenues should be applied for and towards repairing and strengthening the banks of Shiredrain, scouring out the sluice and repairing Gunthorpe Sluice; and also for and towards repairing and strengthening the south bank of the River Old South Eau from West Dam above Clow's Cross; and also the west bank of the said River Old South Eau from Clow's Cross to Guyhirn; and the banks of the Counter Drain from Guyhirn to the end of the severals in Stand Ground; and that the said taxes, rents, and revenues should not be applied or disposed of to, or for any other purpose or purposes whatsoever. And it was thereby further enacted, that the said North Level, and all and singular the lands, tenements, rents, taxes, and revenues thereof should from the same time the same were thereby fully and absolutely freed, discharged, and discharged of and from the payment of any other debts and sums of money whatsoever then owing by or from the said corporation.

And whereas it was by the said act of the seventh of King George the Second, further enacted that the lands and grounds in the said North Level, lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand within the manor of Crowland in South Holland county of Lincoln, containing together about four thousand acres, intended to be drained under the authority of the said act, should be divided into five districts or divisions in manner therein mentioned, and commissioners were thereby nominated and appointed for the said several districts; and the said commissioners thereby nominated and appointed were directed to meet on the first Monday in the month of July in every year and were thereby impowered to assess and charge the owners and occupiers of the lands and grounds within the said several districts, (except as therein is excepted) with equal and proportionable yearly rates and taxes

the said rates and taxes for the first four years, should be after the yearly rate of one shilling for every acre of the said lands and grounds; and so that after the expiration of the said term of four years, the said rates and taxes should not exceed in any one year six pence for every acre of the said lands and grounds; and it was thereby further enacted, that the taxes, and sums of money so to be assessed and rated, and all money to be borrowed on the credit thereof, should be applied by the commissioners for putting that act into execution, for and towards the works of draining and preserving all the said districts or divisions in the said act particularly mentioned, being different works from those to which the taxes arising from the said North Level, under the said acts of the fifteenth and twentieth of King Charles the Second, and the rents and revenues of the said North Level, were directed to be applied by the said act of the twenty-seventh of King George the Second, and the quantities of the lands and grounds so to be rated and taxed were by the said act directed to be ascertained by the oath of the owners or proprietors or occupiers thereof, and by other means by the said act directed; and the quantities of such lands have since been ascertained accordingly.

And whereas, the said tax and a quarter fixed upon such part of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and twelve thousand acres, as lie within the said North Level, by the said act of the twenty-seventh of George the Second, amounted to the yearly sum of seven hundred and seventy-seven pounds thirteen shillings and four pence halfpenny, and several proprietors of the said taxable lands having, pursuant to the power given by that act of parliament, purchased off the taxes chargeable on their lands to the amount of sixty pounds a year, the said one thousand eight hundred pounds debt was thereby raised and paid off; and the said yearly sum of seven

hundred and seventy-seven pounds thirteen shillings and four pence halfpenny, arising from the said tax and a quarter, was thereby reduced to the sum of seven hundred and seventeen pounds three shillings and four pence halfpenny.

And 29 Geo. 2. And whereas, by another act of the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled "An Act for establishing a Fund for Payment of the Bonds of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, and for exchanging the present Bond of the said Corporation for other Bonds payable out of the Revenues of the Middle and South Levels, part of the said Great Level, and for enabling the said Corporation to borrow further Sums for the use of the said Great Level;" It was amongst other things enacted, that it should be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, or any seven or more of them, whereof the said governor and bailiffs, or any of them, were to be two, with the consent of the Duke of Bedford, his heirs or assigns, lord or lords, lady or ladies, of the manor of Thorney, and of the Earl of Lincoln, his heirs or assigns, owner or owners of High and Low Borough Fen, from time to time to borrow upon bonds under the common seal of the said corporation, such sum or sums of money as they the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, should judge necessary, for the use of the said North Level, not exceeding in the whole the sum of five thousand pounds, declaring in such bonds that the money secured thereby was due and owing upon account of the said North Level, and the rents, taxes, and revenues of the said North Level were thereby made a security for the payment of the sum so thereby to be borrowed, with legal or less interest for the same, as should be agreed upon between the said

corporation, and the person and persons lending such money; and it was thereby further enacted, that all and singular the rents, taxes, sum and sums of money to be raised or levied by the said corporation, from, upon, or on account of such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, as lie within the said North Level, should be charged and chargeable in the first place with such sums of money as should at any time then after be borrowed by the said corporation upon account of the said North Level, any thing in the said act of the twenty-seventh of King George the Second to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding; and the receiver of the said corporation was thereby impowered and required, out of the first money which should from time to time come to his hands, arising from the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level, to pay the interest of such bonds as should be entered into upon account of the said North Level, and also the principal money due upon such bonds, upon six months notice left for that purpose at the office of the said corporation in London, by the person or persons possessed of such bonds. And it was thereby further enacted, that in case any of the bonds to be given by the said corporation upon account of the said North Level, should not be paid by the said receiver pursuant to such notice left or given as aforesaid, then the rents, taxes, and revenues of the said North Level, should vest in the person or persons possessed of such bonds, until the same, together with all interest due thereupon, should be fully paid and satisfied, and that such person or persons, his or their executors, administrators or assigns, should have the same power, rights and privileges, of recovering the said rents, taxes, and revenues of the said North Level, as the said corporation would have had in case such bonds had been regularly and fully satisfied and paid.

And whereas, several breaches having happened in the Breaches of



bank in 1763  
and 1764.

5000*l.* borrow-  
ed, upon bond.

Other breaches  
in 1767.

Other debts  
contracted.

Further bre-  
aches.

The present  
revenues of the  
corporation in-  
sufficient for  
the necessary  
repairs.

said north bank of Moreton's Leame, in the years one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, and one thousand seven hundred and sixty-four, the said corporation in order to repair the said bank, and carry on the other works directed by the said act of the twenty-seventh year of King George the Second, borrowed upon bonds the whole sum of five thousand pounds, which they were by the said last recited act enabled to borrow upon account of the said North Level, which debt still remains due and unpaid, and the interest now paid for the same amounts to the annual sum of two hundred and twenty-five pounds, and the clear annual revenue arising to the said corporation from the said tax, and a quarter upon the taxable lands within the said Level, after the payment of such interest, was thereby reduced to the sum of four hundred and eighty-two pounds, three shillings and four-pence halfpenny.

And whereas, other breaches having happened in the said north bank of Moreton's Leame, in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, the said five thousand pounds has been expended, and other debts contracted by the said corporation in the necessary repairs of the said north bank, and other works belonging to the said corporation in the said North Level.

And whereas, further breaches having very lately happened in the said north bank of Moreton's Leame, the lands lying in the said North Level, and in the manor of Crowland, comprized in the said act of the twenty-seventh year of the reign of King George the Second, are now thereby greatly overflowed with water, and the said tax and a quarter, subject to the said five thousand pounds debt, and the other rents and revenues arising and payable to the said corporation by, from, and out of the said North Level, being greatly insufficient to repair the said bank, and to discharge the debts already incurred as aforesaid, and to support and maintain the other works

to which the same are directed to be applied by the said act of the twenty-seventh year of King George the Second, and the maintaining of the said works being absolutely necessary to the preserving and well draining of the lands lying in the said North Level, and the said manor of Crowland, the proprietors and owners of the said lands are willing and desirous that a tax should be laid upon all the lands in the said North Level and manor of Crowland aforesaid, in order to raise money to answer these purposes, and to be disposed of in such manner as herein after is mentioned; but though such tax to be laid for the purposes aforesaid, would be for the benefit of the proprietors of lands in the said North Level and manor of Crowland, yet the same cannot be laid, nor can the said lands be effectually drained and preserved without the aid and authority of parliament.

*May it therefore please your Majesty,*

That it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That for, and notwithstanding the said herein before mentioned act or acts, or any of them, or any clauses in them, or any of them contained, all and singular the lands and grounds, situate and being within the said North Level, and the said land called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, lying within the said manor of Crowland, comprized in the said act of the twenty-seventh year of King George the Second, (except Great Burrough Fen Common, otherwise Peterborough Great Fen Common, the common now commonly called the Four Hundred Acre Common in Alderlands, Little Burrough Fen Common, otherwise Peterborough Little Fen Common, otherwise Flagg Fen Common, and that

All the lands  
in the North  
Level.

Exception.

part of Sutton Common which lies south of Old South Eau, and also all the lands called Hurts Grounds, in the parish of Stand Ground, and also all the lands of Oxney and Tanholt Farms, Chapel Close, Borough-hill Closes, Padham's Peakirk, Long Meadows, Peakirk Little Meadows, and the closes adjoining thereto, Newark Edgetley, and the closes adjoining thereto towards the West and North Billingswood, and the closes adjoining thereto in the parish of Paston, the lands called the Inhams, lying south of the Folly-bank, and the closes at the south end of the Inhams, called Puttock Closes, and also except all the high lands in Eyebury and Newark, and all the high lands in the parishes of Peterborough, Werrington, Glinton, Peakirk, Eye, Stand Ground, and Whittlesey, or any of them) shall yearly, and every year be, and the same are hereby rated, charged and assessed in manner following (that is to say) all the said lands and grounds within the said North Level, (except as before excepted) with a tax of sixpence for every acre of the said lands and grounds, and the said lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, with a tax of three pence for every acre thereof, and that the said taxes shall be paid to the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or to their receiver to be appointed as herein after is directed by the respective owners or occupiers of the said lands or grounds, so hereby rated, charged and assessed on the thirtieth day of June, and the thirtieth day of December in every year, by equal half yearly payments, the first half yearly payment thereof to be made on the thirtieth day of June, which shall happen next after passing this act.

Charged and assessed with a tax of 6d. per acre.

And the lands called Portsand, otherwise Great Porsand, with three pence an acre.

The quantities of the ground hereby taxed to be taken as ascertained in pursuance of 27th Geo. 2.

And it is also hereby enacted, That the quantities of the lands and grounds hereby rated, charged and assessed, shall be taken according to the respective quantities thereof, ascertained in pursuance of the said act of the

twenty-seventh of King George the Second as aforesaid, and that the respective owners or occupiers of the said lands and grounds shall pay the taxes hereby rated and assessed according to the same number of acres, roods and perches, as they are now rated and taxed at under that act.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, by the authority aforesaid, That the taxes hereby charged and to be paid as aforesaid, and also all and every sum and sums of money, to be raised by sale or mortgage of the said taxes so hereby imposed, and to be borrowed and received upon the credit of this act, or of the said taxes hereby imposed in manner herein after directed, shall together with the money arising by the said tax and a quarter fixed upon such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie within the said North Level, and all other the rents and revenues arising and payable to the said corporation, by or from the said North Level or any part thereof, (but subject and without prejudice to the payment of the said five thousand pounds, borrowed by the said corporation upon bond as aforesaid, or the interest thereof) be applied and disposed of by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and their successors, in the first place to the paying and defraying the charges of this act, and afterwards in and towards the charges of the several banks and works of the said North Level only, in the said act of the twenty-seventh year of King George the Second, and herein after mentioned, (that is to say) to pay and discharge such debts as have been incurred for repairing the said north bank of Moreton's Leame, and other works, directed by the said act of the twenty-seventh of King George the Second, and for ever hereafter to raise, make good, and keep in repair the said north bank of Moreton's Leame, the east bank of Cordyke from Moreton's Leame to the Folly Bank, the east and west banks of the Folly from Cordyke to the river

To be applied with the money arising by the tax upon the adventure lands and the other rents and revenues of the corporation.

But without prejudice to the debt of 5000*l.* already borrowed upon bond.

To the expences of this act, and afterwards to the works of the North Level, in the act of 27 Geo. 2. and after mentioned.



Welland; the Old Cordyke to Peakirk town, the bank reaching from the Folly Bank to Peakirk town, and the south bank of the river Welland to the West Dam at the end of Crowland town, until the said banks shall be made of such a height and strength, as the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, or their successors, shall judge sufficient to defend the said North Level, and South Holland, from and against the land floods; and from and after the banks and other works aforesaid shall be put into such a state of security as aforesaid, then to apply such money, for and towards repairing and strengthening the banks of Shire Drain, scouring out the outfall, and repairing, altering, removing and rebuilding Gunthorpe Sluice, and also for and towards repairing and strengthening the south bank of the river Old South Eau; from West Dam aforesaid to Clows Cross, and also the west bank of the said river Old South Eau, from Clows Cross to Guyhirn; and the banks of the Counter Drain, from Guyhirn to the east end of the severals in Stand Ground: And after all the above works are effectually strengthened and repaired, then for and towards the repairing and strengthening the north bank of the river Old South Eau, from the Lott Mill in the first district, to Dowedale.

Twelve-foot  
Drain to be a  
public drain  
within the  
27th Geo. 2.

And whereas, doubts have arisen whether the drain in the said first district of the said North Level, from Griffen's Bar, across part of the said Great Burrow Fen Common, to the south-east corner of the Slipe River, otherwise the drain called the Twelve-foot Drain, which is the only drain for conveying the waters from Eye, Northam, Northam Reaches, and the adventurers lands called the Thirds of the Reaches in Eye and Northam aforesaid, is included in the description of the general drains mentioned and described in the said act of the twenty-seventh year of his late Majesty King George the Second, it is hereby enacted by the authority afore-

said, That the said drain shall from and after the passing of this act be deemed and taken as a publick drain, within the said act, and shall at all times hereafter be maintained, scowered and repaired by the commissioners of the said first district or division, in and by the said act of the twenty-seventh of King George the Second, appointed or hereafter to be appointed, and that no dam, clough, door or sluice, made or to be made in the said Slipe River, or any drain leading therefrom, or the drain called Pepper Lake or Catwater to the mill called the Black-horse Mill, in the said first district, near the pointing doors in the said first district, shall be shut down without the consent of the owners or occupiers of the above mentioned lands.

And whereas the north bank of Moreton's Leame, and Welland Bank, from Peakirk town to the West Dam at Crowland, are frequently damaged by swine or hogs being suffered by the owners of such swine or hogs to go there, to the great prejudice of the country, be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any swine or hogs, Hog clause. shall from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and seventy one, be found upon the said banks or any of them, that the owner or owners of such swine or hogs, shall forfeit and pay to the said receiver, so to be appointed by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, the sum of ten shillings for every such swine or hog that shall be found on the said banks; such penalty to be applied for and towards the repairs of the banks where such swine or hogs shall be respectively found: And that such penalty of ten shillings, shall upon proof of the fact, upon the oath of one witness, before any one or more justice or justices of the peace of the county or place where such banks shall be situated, or by confession of the owner or owners of such swine or hogs, be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the owner or owners of such swine or hogs

respectively, by a warrant or warrants under the hand and seal or hands and seals of such justice or justices (which warrant or warrants, such justice or justices, is and are hereby authorized and required, to grant and to administer such oath as aforesaid), the overplus remaining after such penalty recovered, and the charges of such distress and sale to be returned to the owner or owners of such goods and chattels.

Commissioners  
of the five dis-  
tricts in act 27  
Geo. 2.

Provided always, and be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for the commissioners for the five several districts or divisions, nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, by virtue of the said act of the twenty-seventh year of King George the Second, or of the powers or authorities thereby given, or any forty or more of them, assembled at their next and every other general yearly meeting, on the first Monday in the month of July in every year, to elect eighteen of the said commissioners to be a committee, to superintend and direct the repairs and amendments, to be made of and in the said banks and works, for the year ensuing, the said eighteen commissioners to be chosen in manner following, that is to say, six of the said committee to be chosen out of the commissioners for the third district, and three others of the said committee out of the commissioners for each of the other four districts; and that the names of the eighteen persons so to be chosen yearly as a committee, shall be certified under the hands of the chairmen and clerk of such yearly meetings, and returned to the register of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty at their office in London, within ten days after every such election: and in case the said chairmen and clerk shall neglect or refuse to make such return, then that it shall and may be lawful for any two of the commissioners present at such election, to make such return to the register of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty at their said office in London, within twenty days after every such election.

To elect a com-  
mittee to su-  
perintend and  
direct works.

And it is hereby further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said committee so to be chosen as aforesaid, or the major part of them, who shall be assembled at any meeting within the said North Level, to be held upon two days notice in writing, given by the clerk of the commissioners for the said five districts, or by any two of the said committee, (such notice to be either delivered personally to every one of such committee, or left at their respective dwelling-houses or places of abode,) or in case of any breach of bank, for any five or more of the said committee, so that such five or more consist of one committee-man for each district, assembled together without such notice, or the major part of them, to direct by writing under their hands, such works to be done by the officers of the said corporation, as they shall see necessary for any of the purposes aforesaid, and that the charges and expences of such works shall be paid by the said corporation, out of the taxes, rents, and revenues aforesaid, and out of the money to be raised by the sale or mortgage of, or borrowed on the security of the said taxes, as hereinafter is mentioned; and such committee so met, shall and may adjourn themselves from time to time as they shall see occasion.

Committee or major part upon three days notice.

Or any three of the committee, in case of any breach.

To direct such works as they shall see necessary.

The charges of such works to be paid by the corporation.

And to the end that the said taxes hereby charged and assessed, may be from time to time the more easily collected and received; be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all and every the occupiers of the lands and grounds charged or assessed by virtue of this act shall be, and are hereby required and made liable to pay the said taxes so charged and assessed upon the lands and grounds in their respective occupations; and in case of such payment by any tenant or tenants who shall hold the lands and grounds by him, her, or them, occupied at a rack rent or rack rents, such tenant or tenants shall be at liberty, and is, and are hereby empowered to deduct and retain out of his or their rent, all

Tenants to pay the taxes.

And such as are at rack rent may deduct the same.



such sum or sums of money as he or they shall respectively pay for such taxes as aforesaid; and the several and respective landlords or owners of such lands or grounds, are hereby required to allow such deductions or payments upon the receipt of the residue of their rents, and such tenant or tenants producing proper receipts for the payment of such sum or sums of money so made in pursuance of this act; and all and every tenant and tenants so holding at a rack rent, and paying such taxes shall be acquitted and discharged from and against his, or their landlord or landlords of, and from so much money as the tax by him or them so paid as aforesaid shall amount unto, in as full and ample manner, as if the same had been actually paid to his, her, or their landlord or landlords.

No deduction  
allowed to tenants,  
under  
bishops' leases.

Provided always, and it hereby enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That no lessee or tenant for any life or lives charged and assessed with the said taxes, who shall hold the same by virtue of, or under any lease, from any bishop or collegiate church or college, or any ecclesiastical corporation, sole or aggregate, or the trustees for the charity of Peterborough or other beneficial lease whatsoever, shall be intitled to deduct the taxes charged and assessed by this act, out of the rent reserved or payable by any such lease, to his, her, or their landlord or landlords, but the said taxes shall be charged upon, or be paid by the said lessees or tenants, so holding such lands or grounds under any such lease or leases as aforesaid, any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Tax may be  
levied by distress  
and sale.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any person or persons, shall neglect to pay the taxes charged and assessed upon the lands or grounds in his, her, or their possession or occupation by virtue of this act, within twenty-one days next after the same shall become due or payable, to the receiver appointed to

receive the same by the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, at his usual place of residence within the said North Level; it shall and may be lawful to and for any person or persons, by virtue of any warrant or precept, under the hand and seal of such receiver, to enter into, and upon the lands or grounds so charged and assessed as aforesaid, in possession of such person or persons as shall make default in payment as aforesaid; and all messuages or tenements thereupon, standing or thereunto belonging, with their appurtenances; and to levy the sum or sums of money by him, her, or them payable for such taxes, by distress of the goods and chattels which shall be found on the premisses, so charged with such taxes in arrear as aforesaid; and in case no sufficient distress can be found on the premisses, it shall be lawful to and for such person or persons, by virtue of such warrant or precept as aforesaid, to levy all arrears of the said taxes by distress of the goods and chattels of the person or persons so making default in payment as aforesaid, which shall be found in any other place within the kingdom of Great Britain; and the goods and chattels so distrained, to impound on the premisses, or take, lead, drive, carry away, and keep for the space of five days at the costs and charges of the owner or owners thereof, leaving at such messuage or tenement, grounds or premisses, notice in writing of the cause of such distress; and if the owner or owners of the goods and chattels so distrained shall not pay the sum and sums of money due, and in arrear for the said taxes as aforesaid, and all charges attending such distress, or replevy the goods and chattels so distrained, with sufficient sureties to be given to the sheriff of the county where the distress shall be so made, or high bailiff of the Isle of Ely according to the laws now in being, for distresses in case of non-payment of rent within five days next after such distress made, and notice thereof given as aforesaid, the person or per-

Distress may  
be sold at the  
end of five  
days.

sons so distraining shall and may with the sheriff or under sheriff of the county, high bailiff of the Isle of Ely, or his deputy by him appointed and acting for him, constable or headborough of the parish where such distress shall be made (who are hereby required to assist therein) cause the goods and chattels so distrained to be appraised by two or more indifferent persons, to be sworn by such sheriff, under sheriff, high bailiff or his deputy constable or headborough (who are hereby empowered to administer such oath) to appraise the same according to the best of their judgments; and after such appraisement it shall and may be lawful to and for such person or persons making such distress to sell the goods and chattels so distrained for the best price that can be gotten for the same, for, and towards satisfaction of the monies for which such distress shall be so made, and the charges of taking, keeping, appraising, and selling the goods and chattels so distrained, leaving the overplus (if any) in the hands of such sheriff, under sheriff, high bailiff, or his deputy constable or headborough, for the owner's use.

If the lands shall be untenanted, and no distress can be had, the lands to remain a security for the rates.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That in case any of the said lands or grounds shall at any time hereafter be untenanted or unoccupied, so that no sufficient distress can be found for levying the said taxes in arrear as aforesaid, then the lands and grounds chargeable therewith, shall always remain a security for the payment thereof, and all goods and chattels which shall at any time thereafter be found thereon, shall and may be distrained, impounded, kept, appraised, and sold in manner aforesaid, until all arrears of the said taxes and the charges of such distress shall be fully paid and satisfied.

And forasmuch as the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level, subject to the said debt of five thousand pounds, and the money so to be yearly levied and

collected in pursuance of this act, will not be sufficient for answering the necessary charges and expences already incurred, and the further charges and expences necessary for the immediate repairing and maintaining of the works aforesaid, and which may hereafter be necessary: It is hereby enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the proprietors of lands within the said North Level, and manor of Crowland, to purchase off the said taxes charged on their respective lands by virtue of this present act, after the rate of thirty years purchase, and upon payment of the several sums of money for the purchase of the said taxes as aforesaid, to the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, to be by them applied towards the works before directed, or the debts incurred on account thereof, the said several purchasers, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and their respective lands and tenements, shall be from thenceforth fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from so much of the said taxes as by them shall have been respectively so purchased; and that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and their successors, and they are hereby required upon such payment as aforesaid, at the costs of such purchasers, to execute under their common seal, good and sufficient conveyances, releases, and discharges of, for, and from the taxes so purchased as aforesaid, to the said several purchasers, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns respectively, describing and bounding therein the lands which shall be thereby released and exonerated from the said taxes, in pursuance of such purchases.

The proprietors of the lands taxed may purchase off the tax at the rate of thirty years purchase.

And it is hereby further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, and their successors, or any seven or more of them, whereof the governor and bailiffs or any of them to be two, with the

And the corporation of the Bedford Level, with the consent of the owners of the manor of Thorney High



and Low Borough Fen and the manor of Crowland, may borrow money on bonds at interest not exceeding 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

The money raised by sale and borrowed, not to exceed 20,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The former revenues of the North Level (subject to the former debt) and the present tax, to be a security for the money so borrowed.

The bonds to be numbered.

consent of the devisees in trust, under the will of John late Duke of Bedford, or the survivors or survivor of them, or the executors, administrators or assigns of such survivor, until one of the grandsons of the said late Duke of Bedford, the sons of the late Right Honorable Francis Russell, commonly called Marquis of Tavistock, shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and then of the Duke of Bedford his heirs or assigns, lord or lords, owner or owners of the manor of Thorney, and of Sir Sampson Gideon, Baronet, his heirs or assigns, owner or owners of High and Low Borough Fen, and of Charles Orby Hunter, his heirs or assigns, lord or lords, lady or ladies of the manor of Crowland, or of the owners for the time being of any two of the same manors and lands from time to time, to borrow upon bonds under the common seal of the said corporation such sum and sums of money as they the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the purposes aforesaid, so that the whole money to be raised by sale of the said taxes as aforesaid, and borrowed, do not exceed the sum of twenty thousand pounds, declaring that the money secured by such bonds is due and owing upon account of the said North Level, and is borrowed pursuant to this present act; and the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level (but without prejudice to the present bond creditors, for the said sum of five thousand pounds, or any of them) and the said taxes charged and assessed by this present act, shall be, and are hereby made a security for the sums so borrowed, with legal, or less interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said corporation and the persons lending such money; but no money so to be borrowed shall be charged or chargeable upon any of the rents, taxes, or revenues of the Middle and South Level, part of the said Great Level of the Fens.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That all bonds so

to be given by the said corporation shall be numbered, beginning with number one, and so proceeding in arithmetical progression ; and that no bond shall be given for any greater or less sum than one hundred pounds.

And be it further enacted, That all bonds so to be given by the said corporation shall be transferable or assignable by indorsement upon the original bond, without stamp, to any person or persons whatsoever, and such transfer or assignment being produced to the register of the said corporation, and by him entered in a book to be kept for that purpose (which entry the said register is hereby required to make upon request of the person producing such transfer or assignment, such person paying the sum of two shillings and sixpence for every such entry) shall entitle the person or persons to whom such transfer or assignment shall be made, his, her or their executors, administrators, or assigns, to the money secured by such bond, and all interest due or to grow due thereon ; and such assignee or assignees may in like manner, by indorsement without stamp, assign or transfer such bonds so assigned or transferred as aforesaid ; and so *toties quoties* as occasion shall require, every such assignment being entered in such books as aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, That the receiver and receivers of the said corporation shall, out of the money which shall from time to time, come to their hands by the rents, taxes, and revenues arising from the said North Level (but without prejudice to the present bond creditors for the said sum of five thousand pounds, or any of them) and the taxes charged and assessed by this act, pay the interest of such bonds as shall be so entered into, pursuant to this act as aforesaid ; and also the principal due upon such bonds, upon six calendar months notice left for that purpose at the office of the said corporation in London, by the person or persons possessed of such bonds.

And to be assignable by indorsement without stamp.

Fee for entering of assignments.

Assignees may assign *toties quoties*.

The taxes to be applied in payment of the interest of the money borrowed, and also of the principal, upon six months notice.

# APPENDIX.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if any of the bonds so to be given by the said corporation shall not be paid by the said receivers, pursuant to such notice left or given as aforesaid, then the rents, taxes and revenues of the said North Level (but without prejudice to the present bond creditors for the said sum of five thousand pounds, or any part of them); and the taxes charged and assessed by this act, or so much thereof as shall not be purchased off the owners of the said lands as aforesaid, shall vest in the person or persons possessed of such bonds, until they are paid together with all interest due thereupon, shall be paid and satisfied; and such person or persons, his heirs and their executors, administrators, or assigns, shall have the same power, rights, and privileges of recovery for the said taxes, rents, and revenues of the said North Level (but without prejudice to the present bond creditors for the said sum of five thousand pounds, or any part of them) and the taxes charged and assessed by this act, as the said corporation would have had in case such bonds had been regularly and fully satisfied and paid, or had been executed.

Nothing contained in this act, to invalidate the securities to the former creditors.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this act contained, shall extend or be construed to tend, to lessen, diminish, or invalidate the securities given to the creditors of the said corporation, for the bonds already entered into by the said corporation upon account of the said North Level, pursuant to the power given to them for the borrowing the sum of five thousand pounds by the said recited act of the tenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King Charles the Second, or any of them, or the remedies given by that act for recovering the principal and interest upon such bonds, or any of them.

The corporation to elect a person residing

And it is hereby further enacted, That it shall and lawfully may be lawful, for the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty

alty, and they are hereby required to elect from time to time, a person residing within the said North Level, to be their receiver of the taxes rated and assessed by this act, for the year ensuing; and they are hereby empowered to pay, and allow unto such receiver, out of the money to be collected for the said taxes, such sum and sums of money by way of salary, or otherwise, as a recompence for such receiver's trouble and expences, as they shall see proper.

within the North Level to be receiver of the present tax.

And be it further enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty are hereby required and authorized to take such security from the said receiver for the due execution of his office, as to them shall seem meet.

Security to be taken from the receivers.

And it is hereby further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, shall cause to be delivered to the said commissioners of the said five districts, at their general meeting aforesaid, in the month of July; an annual account of the money received by or from the taxes or revenues of the said North Level, or by the taxes hereby rated or assessed, or raised by sale of the said last mentioned taxes, or borrowed on security thereof as aforesaid, and of all monies paid thereout, for the year preceding to the first day of June, then last.

The corporation to deliver a yearly account to the commissioners of the money received on account of the North Level, and of the application thereof.

Provided always, and it is enacted and declared by the authority aforesaid, That if any action, suit, or information, shall be commenced or prosecuted against any person or persons, for any thing done, or to be done in pursuance of this act, or in execution of any of the powers and authorities thereby given, every such action, suit or information, shall be commenced or prosecuted within twelve calendar months next after the fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid or brought in the counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, Lincoln, and Northampton, or the Isle of Ely, or one of them, and not elsewhere, and the defendant or defendants, in such

Limitations of actions.



General issue.

action or suit, shall and may plead the general issue *not guilty*; and if in replevin may justify and avow, virtue of this act, as persons acting under, and by authority of commissioners of sewers, are enabled to and give this act, and the special matter in evidence without specially pleading the same (other than as aforesaid) at any trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the authority of this act, and if the same shall appear to have been so done, any such action or suit shall be brought after the time before limited for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other county, then the jury shall find for the plaintiff or defendants, avowant or avowants; or if the plaintiff or plaintiffs shall become nonsuit, or for want of prosecution, or discontinue his or their suit or suits, if any judgment shall be given against him, her or them upon demurrer, or otherwise, then in any of the cases, the defendant or defendants, and avowant or avowants, shall recover double costs, for which he, she, or they, shall have like remedy, as where costs by law are awarded.

Costs.

Rights of the  
corporation  
and others  
saved to them.

Provided always, and be it hereby enacted, That the said lawful rights, powers, jurisdictions and authorities shall be saved and reserved unto the said governor, commissioners and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, as well as to all and every other person and persons, his, her, and his, hers, executors and administrators, now vested in and enjoyed by them, as are not hereby taken away, altered or repealed.

Public act.

And be it further enacted and declared, That this act shall be deemed and allowed in all courts within the said kingdom, and upon all occasions whatsoever, to be a public act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such, by all courts, judges, and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

## No. XXIX.

## SECOND BOND ACT.

1772.

12 Geo. III. c. 9.

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*An Act to enable the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, to borrow upon Bond, further Money upon account of the Middle and South Levels, part of the said Great Level; and for establishing a further certain Fund, for Payment of the Bonds of the said Corporation, out of the said Middle and South Levels.*

WHEREAS by an act of parliament, made in the fifteenth year of King Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level," it was, (amongst other things) enacted, That William then Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of Francis Earl of Bedford, and the said Earl William, oreither of them, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as in the said act is contained, should be a body politic and corporate, and have succession for ever, by the name of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens; with power to lay taxes upon the ninety-five thousand acres allotted to them as a recompence for draining the said Great Level (twelve thousand acres whereof had been designed and intended for

Preamble, reciting part of the act of 15 Car. 2. for draining Bedford Level.

his late Majesty King Charles the First, and had been forth by bounds in severalty), for the support, maintenance, and preservation of the said Great Level, and levy the same with penalties for non-payment; and do all other things, in order to the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, and works made and to be made, in such manner as in the said act mentioned.

20 Car. 2.

And whereas, by another act, made in the twentieth year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled "An Act for the Taxing and Assessing of the Land of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens," was enacted, that eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should from time to time, be taxed and assessed by a gradual acre tax, according to the different sorts and values of lands; and that the twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should be rated at a medium of the whole tax, to be from time to time assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand acres: and to the end that the said eighty-three thousand acres might be more equally taxed by a gradual acre-tax, certain persons, in the same act named, were appointed surveyors and valuers of the said eighty-three thousand acres; and were, within the time limited by the said act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into a number of sorts and degrees, not under a number of seven sorts and degrees, and to rate and assess such degrees, and digest the same into schedule writing; and to make returns thereof, upon their oath, into the Fen-Office, in such manner as by the said act is prescribed.

And whereas, by valuations, made by the several persons appointed by the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and duly returned into the office of the said corporation in London, the said eighty-three thousand acres were set out and digested into eleven

ferent sorts and degrees of land, and the several sums to be rated and assessed upon each of the said sorts and degrees, as their respective proportions of the taxes to be paid to the said corporation, were, by the said valuations, settled and limited; and the said eighty-three thousand acres have always since been taxed by a gradual acre-tax, according to the degrees and proportions so set out and allotted, and the said twelve thousand acres at a medium of such tax.

And whereas, by another act, made in the twenty- 27 Geo. 2. seventh year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, "An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a Debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said North Level; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland," taking notice, amongst other things, that, at a court of the said corporation, held the tenth day of March, one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said corporation declared, that the several parts of the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several names of the North Level, Middle Level, and South Level, respectively; it was, amongst other things, enacted, That the said North Level, or the lands, tenements, rents, taxes, and revenues thereof, or of any part thereof, should not be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, or sum or sums of money, which should at any time thereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed by the said corpora-



tion, for or upon account of the said Middle or South Levels, or either of them ; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and taxes of them, or either of them, should not be subject or liable to the payment of any debt, or sum or sums of money whatsoever, which should at any time thereafter be contracted, taken up, or borrowed by the said corporation, on account of the said North Level.

29 Geo. 2.

And whereas, by another act, made in the twenty-ninth year of his said late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, “ An Act for establishing a Fund for Payment of the Bonds of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty, of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, and for exchanging the present Bonds of the said Corporation for other Bonds, payable out of the Revenues of the Middle and South Levels, part of the said Great Level, and for enabling the said Corporation to borrow further Sums, for the use of the said Great Level;” to the end that a sufficient fund might be at all times thereafter raised and secured for the payment of the bonds of the said corporation, and that the bonds, which had been given by the said corporation for the sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, the then debt of the said corporation, might be exchanged; and that the said corporation might be enabled to borrow such further sums as should be necessary for the support and preservation of the said Great Level; and that distinct bonds might be given for the money which should be borrowed upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and upon account of the said North Level, it was (amongst other things) enacted, That during such time as any debt or sum of money should be due or owing, from or upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, all such parts of the said

eighty-three thousand acres as lie within the said Levels, or either of them, should yearly and every year be, and the same were thereby, rated, taxed, charged, and assessed, by and with a single gradual acre tax, and such part of the said twelve thousand acres as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with a medium of such single gradual acre tax, according to the said act of the twentieth of King Charles the Second, and the valuations made in pursuance thereof: And it was thereby provided, That it should be lawful for the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, from time to time, to rate, tax, charge, or assess, all such parts of the said eighty-three thousand acres and twelve thousand acres as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, with any further tax which they the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, should judge necessary, in the same manner as they might have done before the making of the said act: And it was thereby further enacted, That, in lieu of the bonds thentofore given by the said corporation, for securing the payment of the said debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, should give other bonds, under the common seal of the said corporation, for the respective sums due to the person or persons possessed of such bonds, mentioning in the bonds so to be given, that the money secured thereby was due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; and that all and singular the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels should be, and they were thereby declared to be, a security for, and should be charged and chargeable with, the payment of the sums mentioned in such bonds, and all interest due, and to become due, thereupon; and that it should be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any seven or more of

them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, from time to time, to borrow upon bonds, any sum or sums of money which they should judge necessary, for the use of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, so as by the borrowing of such sum or sums the debt of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, should not be at any time made to exceed in the whole the sum of thirty-two thousand pounds; declaring in the bonds to be given for such sum or sums, that the money secured thereby was due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; and that the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels should be, and they were thereby, made a security for re-payment of the sums so to be borrowed, with legal or less interest for the same, as should be agreed upon between the said corporation and the person or persons lending such money: And it was thereby further enacted, That all and singular the rents, taxes, and sums of money, to be received, raised, or levied, by the said corporation, from, upon, or upon account of, such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, should be charged and chargeable, in the first place, with the payment of the aforesaid debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, and of such other sums of money as should be so borrowed upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and of the interest of such debts and sums of money; and the receiver of the said corporation was thereby empowered and required, out of the first money which should from time to time come to his hands, arising from the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels, to pay the interest of such bonds as should be entered into upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and also the principal monies due upon such bonds, upon six months notice



left for that purpose at the office of the said corporation in London, by the person or persons possessed of such bonds: And it was thereby further enacted and declared, That in case any of the bonds to be given by the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, should not be paid by the said receiver, pursuant to such notice left or given as aforesaid, then the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels, should vest in the person or persons possessed of such bonds, until the same, together with all interest due thereupon, should be fully paid and satisfied; and such person or persons, their executors, administrators, and assigns, should have the same power, rights, and privileges, of recovering the said rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels, as the said corporation would have had in case such bonds had been regularly paid and fully satisfied.

And whereas, by an order made by the said corporation, on the 10th day of June one thousand seven hundred and fifty-six, it was resolved, that it should be a standing order of the said corporation, that no money should be applied to any other works in the said Middle and South Levels until the south banks of Moreton's Leame beginning at Standground; the north bank of the Hundred Foot from Erith to Salter's Load; the bank from the Hard Lands of Swasey to the Hermitage; the south bank of the Hundred Foot from the Hermitage to Denver Sluice; the west bank of the Ouse from Denver Sluice to Littleport; the west bank of the Grant from Harrimeer to Clayhithe; the east bank of the Ouse from Helgay Creek to Harrimeer; and the east bank of the Grant from Harrimeer to Clayhithe, and the several sluices and gates adjoining to those banks (being the principal works necessary for the preservation of the said Middle and South Levels) should be put into good repair; unless, at any future general meeting of the corporation, it should

Order of Bedford Level corporation, of 10th June, 1756, directing money to be applied to the principal banks of the Middle and South Levels only.



be found necessary for the corporation to be at part of the expence of some particular material works that might be wanting for the preservation of a particular district within either of those levels.

Present debt  
of the corpo-  
ration on ac-  
count of the  
Middle and  
South Levels :

Annual interest  
thereof.

Produce of a  
single tax :

Also of a  
quarter tax.

And whereas the debt of the said corporation, on account of the said Middle and South Levels, is increased to the sum of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, which debt still remains due, and is secured by bonds entered into pursuant to the said act, and the interest of such bonds amounts annually to the sum of twelve hundred and twenty-eight pounds; and a single gradual acre tax on such part of the said eighty-three thousand acres, and the medium tax on such part of the said twelve thousand acres, as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, charged and assessed by the said act of the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty King George the Second, produce annually the sum of four thousand four hundred and eighteen pounds, eighteen shillings; and the further tax of a quarter of a single gradual acre tax on the said lands will produce the further sum of eleven hundred and four pounds, fourteen shillings and six pence.

And whereas, by the floods which happened last winter, great damage hath been done to the banks and principal works before mentioned, which cannot be sufficiently repaired, or the said Middle and South Levels properly preserved, by the ordinary revenue of the said corporation, arising from the said Middle and South Levels, nor unless a further power is given to the said corporation to borrow money beyond the sum of thirty-two thousand pounds limited by the said act of the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty, and such parts of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie in the said Middle and South Levels are absolutely charged with a further tax than the same are charged with by the said act of the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty King George the Second,

as a further certain fund for the payment of the debts of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, which cannot be done without the aid of parliament; and as the maintaining and preserving the said principal works will not only be for the benefit of the country in general, but will tend to the greater security of the present creditors of the said corporation;

*May it please your Majesty,*

Upon the humble petition of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, of the company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal and commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That it shall and may be lawful for the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, or any ten or more of them, whereof the governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be three, to borrow upon bonds, under the common seal of the said corporation, any sum or sums of money which they shall see necessary, for the use of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, at legal or less interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said corporation and the person or persons lending such money, so as by the borrowing of such sum or sums of money the debt of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, including the said present debt of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, be not at any time made to exceed in the whole the sum of forty-four thousand pounds; declaring in the bonds to be given for such sum or sums, that the money secured thereby is due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; any thing in the said act of the twenty-ninth year of his late Majesty King George

Power to borrow more money upon bonds, on account of Middle and South Levels.

So as the whole debt be not made to exceed the sum of 44,000*l*.



thousand seven hundred pounds, shall be transferrable or assignable, by indorsement upon the original bonds, without stamp, to any person or persons whomsoever; and such transfer or assignment being produced to the register of the said corporation, and by him entered in a book to be kept for that purpose (which entry the said register is hereby required to make upon request, the person producing such transfer or assignment, paying the sum of two shillings and six pence for every such entry) shall entitle the person or persons to whom such transfer or assignment shall be made, his, her, and their executors, administrators, or assigns, to the money secured by such bonds, and all interest due, or to grow due, thereupon; and such assignee or assignees, his, her, or their executors and administrators, may, in like manner, by indorsement without stamp, assign and transfer such bonds so assigned as aforesaid, and so *toties quoties* as occasion shall require; every such assignment being entered in such book as aforesaid.

Assignments to be entered with the register of the corporation.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That all and singular the rents, taxes and sums of money, to be received, raised, or levied, by the said corporation, from, upon, or on account of, such part of the said ninety-five thousand acres as lie within the said Middle or South Levels, or either of them, shall be charged or chargeable, in the first place, with the payment of the aforesaid debt of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, and of all such other sums of money as shall be borrowed upon account of the said Middle and South Levels as aforesaid, and of the interest of such debt and sums of money; and the receiver of the said corporation, for the time being, is hereby empowered and required, out of the first money which shall from time to time come to his hands, arising from the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels, to pay the interest of the bonds entered into, and to be entered into, upon account

Money raised by the corporation upon the taxable lands in Middle and South Levels, how to be applied.

of the said Middle and South Levels, and also the principal money due upon such bonds, upon like notice left at the office of the said corporation.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, by the authority aforesaid, That in case any of the bonds, given by the said corporation upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, shall not be paid by the said receiver, pursuant to such notice left or given as aforesaid, then the rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels shall vest in the person or persons possessed of such bonds, until the same, together with all interest due, and to become due, thereupon, shall be fully satisfied and paid; and such person or persons, their executors, administrators, or assigns, shall have the same power, rights, and privileges, of recovering the said rents, taxes, and revenues, of the said Middle and South Levels, as the said corporation would have had in case such bonds had been regularly and fully paid and satisfied.

Provided also, and be it further enacted and declared, by the authority aforesaid, That no money to be borrowed by the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, shall be charged or chargeable upon any of the rents, taxes, or revenues, of the said corporation arising within the said North Level, or any part thereof.

How the money borrowed is to be applied.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the money to be borrowed in pursuance of this act, as aforesaid, or any part thereof, shall not be applied by the said corporation to any other works but the repairing, maintaining, and preserving, the south banks of Moreton's Leame beginning at Standground; the north bank of the Hundred Foot from Erith to Salters Load; the bank from the Hard Lands of Swasey to the Hermitage; the south bank of the Hundred Foot from the Hermitage to Denver Sluice; the west bank of



Owse from Denver Sluice to Little-port; the west bank of the Grant, from Harrimeer to Clayhithe; the east bank of the Owse, from Helgay Creek to Harrimeer; and the east bank of the Grant, from Harrimeer to Clayhithe; and the several sluices and gates adjoining to those banks.

Provided also, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that no more than the sum of six thousand pounds of the money to be borrowed in pursuance of this act, shall be applied for the purposes aforesaid; except in case of actual breach of some or one of the banks before mentioned; and that the sum of six thousand pounds, residue of the money so to be borrowed in pursuance of this act, shall be applied only in repairing the breaches which shall from time to time happen in the said banks, or any of them. And, to the end that there may always be a sufficient fund to repair the breaches which may from time to time happen in the said banks, be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all such sums of money as shall be so applied in repairing and amending such breaches of banks shall, from time to time, be repaid and reimbursed by the said corporation, out of their general yearly revenue arising from the rents and taxes of the said Middle and South Levels (but subject, and without prejudice, to the debts of the said corporation, and to the remedies given for recovering the same); at the yearly rate of ten pounds for every one hundred pounds advanced for the purpose aforesaid, and so in proportion for a greater or lesser sum till the capital sums so advanced (without any interest for the same) shall, from time to time, be repaid or reimbursed; and that the money, from time to time repaid or reimbursed, shall be again applicable to the repairing and amending of such breaches of banks as aforesaid, or to the payment of the money borrowed for that purpose; and that so much thereof as shall be again

The sum of 600*l.* to be applied only in cases of actual breach of bank;

and to be repaid, so as to be a perpetual fund for that purpose.

applied in repairing such breaches of banks, be again repaid or reimbursed out of the general yearly revenue of the said corporation, arising from the rents and taxes of the said Middle and South Levels, in manner aforesaid; and so *toties quoties* as often as any money so repaid or reimbursed shall be again laid out in repairs of breaches of banks as aforesaid.

Public act.

And be it further enacted and declared, by the authority aforesaid, That this act shall be deemed and allowed in all courts within this kingdom to be a public act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

## No. XXX.

### TURF ACT.

1782.

23 Geo. III, c. 25.

*An Act to enable the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, to sell their Taxes of certain Lands within the Middle and South Levels, part of the said Great Level, which have been or may be dug for Turf; and to apply the Money arising from such Sale, towards discharging the Bond Debts of the said Corporation upon account of those Levels.*

Act of 15th  
Charles 2.

WHEREAS by an act of parliament made and passed in the fifteenth year of the reign of his late Majesty King

Charles the Second, intituled "An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level," it was enacted, That William then Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of Francis then late Earl of Bedford, and of the said Earl William, their heirs and assigns, in such manner as therein mentioned, should be a body politick and corporate, in deed and name, and have succession for ever, by the name of, the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens; and for the continuance of the said corporation in succession for ever, the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty were to be chosen annually in manner therein mentioned; and the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any of them, were to be two, were thereby empowered to lay taxes, from time to time, on ninety-five thousand acres of land within the said Level (allotted as a recompence for draining the said Level) for the support, maintenance and preservation of the said Great Level, and to levy the same with penalties; and, after reciting that twelve thousand acres, part of the said ninety-five thousand acres, had been designed and intended for his then late Majesty, and set forth in severalty, and that his said then late Majesty had been in possession thereof, and had granted two thousand acres, parcel thereof, to Jerome Earl of Portland, his heirs and assigns, who had sold and granted the same to other persons, it was by the said act enacted, that the said two thousand acres should be vested in such persons, subject, with the residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, to all taxes and charges necessary and conducing to the preservation of the said Great Level from drowning; and it was thereby further enacted, that the eighty-three thousand acres, remainder of the said ninety-five thousand acres, should be vested in the said governor, bailiffs,



and commonalty of the said company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their successors, in trust for the said William Earl of Bedford, and the adventurers and participants of the said Earl Francis and Earl William, their heirs and assigns, in such parts and proportions as they then held the same, subject nevertheless and liable to the payment of all taxes and charges as aforesaid; and the said ten thousand acres, whereof his said then late Majesty had been in possession as aforesaid, were thereby vested in his then Majesty, subject to the like taxes :

Act of 20th Charles 2. for taxing 83,000 acres (parcel of the 95,000) by a gradual acre tax, and 12,000 acres at a medium of such tax.

And whereas, by another act of parliament made and passed in the twentieth year of his said late Majesty King Charles the Second, intituled, "An Act for the Taxing and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens," it was enacted, that all taxes imposed or to be imposed for preservation of the said Level should be assessed upon the said eighty-three thousand acres, parcel of the said ninety-five thousand acres, by a gradual acre tax of different sorts and values of land; and surveyors and valuers were thereby appointed to digest the said eighty-three thousand acres into a number of sorts and degrees, and to make returns thereof into the Fen-office, according to which the same were in future to be taxed; And the said twelve thousand acres, residue of the said ninety-five thousand acres, were to be rated at a medium of the said tax :

The lands set out into eleven sorts or degrees, according to which the same have since been taxed.

And whereas, in pursuance of the said last-mentioned act, the surveyors thereby appointed did set out the said eighty-three thousand acres into eleven sorts or degrees of land, to be rated and taxed in manner following; that is to say, for a single tax four-pence per acre on the first sort of land, eight-pence per acre on the second sort, and so encreasing four-pence upon every sort, the eleventh sort to be taxed at three shillings and eight-pence per acre; and all greater or less sums which the said corpo-



ration should have occasion to levy and raise were to be assessed according to that proportion; and the said valuations were returned by the said surveyors to the Fen-office; and the said eighty-three thousand acres have since been taxed by a gradual acre tax, according to the degrees and proportions so set out, and the said twelve thousand acres at a medium of such tax.

And whereas, the said Great Level was divided into three parts, known and distinguished by the names of the North Level, the Middle Level, and the South Level:

The Great Level divided into three parts.

And whereas the yearly taxes and revenues of the said Levels having been insufficient for supporting the works for draining and preserving the same, the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty were obliged to borrow money at interest for that purpose, and by means thereof contracted very large debts, some of which were incurred generally upon account of the whole of the said Great Level, some upon account of the said North Level only, and others upon account of the said Middle and South Levels.

Taxes insufficient for the works, and debts incurred.

And whereas, by an act of parliament passed in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Second, the said corporation was discharged from a debt of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen pounds eleven shillings and nine-pence, due to the then Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln, which had been incurred upon account of the said North Level; and they were in consequence of the said act discharged of one thousand eight hundred pounds, by the said act provided for discharging the proportion of the said North Level in a debt of fourteen thousand three hundred pounds, then due from the said corporation upon account of the whole of the said Great Level; but the said corporation remained liable to a debt of twelve thousand five hundred pounds (residue of the said fourteen thousand three hundred pounds), and to a debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty pounds (making toge-

Act of 27th Geo. 2. the North Level separated from the Middle and South Levels.

ther twenty-eight thousand four hundred and forty pounds), upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, owing to sundry persons upon bonds from the said corporation under their common seal; and the taxes and revenues arising from the said North Level were by the said last-mentioned act discharged from the said debts, and were not to be liable to any future debts which might be contracted by the said corporation for or upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; and the taxes and revenues arising from the said Middle and South Levels were not to be liable to any debts thereafter to be contracted for or upon account of the said North Level:

29th Geo. 2.  
New bonds  
directed to be  
given by the  
corporation for  
the debt due on  
account of the  
Middle and  
South Levels.

And whereas, by another act of parliament passed in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of his said late Majesty, King George the Second, reciting, (among other things) that the said debt of twenty-eight thousand four hundred and forty pounds had been reduced to twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, it was enacted, that during such time as any debt should be due upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, all such parts of the said eighty-three thousand acres as lie within those Levels, or either of them, should be yearly taxed with a single gradual acre-tax, and such parts of the said twelve thousand acres as lie within those Levels with a medium of such tax; but it was provided that the said corporation might assess the same with any future tax in the same manner they might have done before the passing of the said act; and it was thereby further enacted, that, in lieu of the then bonds, for securing the said debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds, the said corporation should give other bonds, under the common seal of the said corporation, for the respective sums due to the persons possessed of the then bonds, specifying in such new bonds that the money secured thereby was due and owing upon account



of the said Middle and South Levels; and the taxes and revenues of those Levels were thereby made a security for, and charged with, the payment of the sums mentioned in such bonds, and the interest thereof; and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators were thereby empowered to borrow upon bonds, under the common seal of the said corporation, such sums of money as they should judge necessary, for the use of the said Middle and South Levels, not increasing the debt of the said corporation upon account of those Levels beyond the sum of thirty-two thousand pounds, declaring, in the bonds given for such sums, that the same were due and owing upon account of the said Middle and South Levels; and the taxes and revenues of the said Middle and South Levels were thereby made a security for the monies so to be borrowed on account of those Levels; and such bonds were thereby made assignable or transferrable:

And whereas, in pursuance of the last-mentioned act, new bonds were given by the said corporation for the said debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty pounds upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, according to the directions of the said act; and further sums were borrowed on bond for the use of those Levels:

And whereas, by another act of parliament, passed in the twelfth year of the reign of his present Majesty, reciting, or taking notice, that the debt of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, was then encreased to the sum of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, the said corporation was empowered to borrow upon bonds, under the common seal, any sums for the use of the said Middle and South Levels, so as that the debt of the said corporation, upon account of those Levels, including the then debt of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, should not at any time be made to exceed in the whole the sum of forty-four

12th Geo. 3.  
the corporation  
empowered to  
borrow further  
sums on ac-  
count of those  
Levels.

will be that  
should borrow  
not exceed

thousand pounds, declaring in such bonds that the money secured thereby was due and owing upon account the said Middle and South Levels; And it was thereby enacted, That, during such time as the debts of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, should exceed the sum of thirty-two thousand pounds, all such parts of the said eighty-three thousand acres as lie within those Levels, should be yearly assessed and charged with a quarter or fourth part of a single gradual acre-tax, over and above the single gradual acre-tax with which the same were then charged, by the said act of the twenty-ninth year of his said late Majesty King George the Second, and such part of said twelve thousand acres as laid within those Levels with a medium of such further tax; but it was provided, that it should be lawful for the said corporation to charge or assess such further taxes thereon as they might have done before the making of the said act; and all the taxes and revenues of the said corporation, arising from the said Middle and South Levels, were thereby made a security for the payment of the aforesaid debt of thirty thousand seven hundred pounds, and of such other sums as should be borrowed on account of those Levels, and the interest thereof.

The debt of the corporation, on account of those Levels, is now 35,800*l*.

And whereas, in pursuance of the said last-mentioned act, several sums were borrowed for the purposes thereof by the said corporation, upon bonds under their common seal, on account of the said Middle and South Levels, means whereof the debt of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, is now encreased to the sum of thirty-five thousand eight hundred pounds, for which the taxes and revenues of the said corporation, arising from those Levels, are a security as aforesaid:

Part of the taxed lands have been cut

And whereas, the fuel principally made use of in several towns, villages, and hamlets, within the said Middle



and South Levels, is turf or peat dug out of lands therein; and divers parts of the said ninety-five thousand acres of land, commonly called Adventure Land, so taxed and taxable as aforesaid, lying within the said Middle and South Levels, have been heretofore cut or dug for turf, and the same, and other parts of such adventure lands may be fit to be cut for that purpose; and it will be expedient to enable the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty to sell the said tax or taxes, wherewith such lands as have been so heretofore cut, or now are or hereafter may be fit to cut, for turf, are now charged by virtue of the several acts of parliament aforesaid, or any of them, or wherewith the same might be hereafter charged, by virtue of the power of taxation, vested in the said corporation by the said acts, or any of them, and to apply the money arising from such sale towards discharge of the said bond debts of the said corporation, upon account of the said Middle and South Levels :

for turf, and other parts are fit for that purpose.

Expedient to enable the corporation to sell the taxes of such lands, and apply the money towards payment of the debts.

*May it therefore please your Majesty,*

Upon the humble petition of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, That it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the first day of June one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, it shall and may be lawful to and for the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, or any five or more of them, whereof the governor and bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, to sell and dispose of the said tax or taxes, wherewith such parts of the said ninety-five thousand acres, lying within the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, as

The corporation empowered to sell the taxes of such lands as have been or may be cut for turf, to the owners of such lands.

that all and every sums and sum of money whatsoever which shall arise by such sale or sales as aforesaid, shall (after first discharging the costs, charges, and expences attending the passing this present act and the execution thereof) be applied by the said corporation, so far as the same will extend, towards the payment and discharge of the said bond debts of the said corporation upon account of the said Middle and South Levels, and to or for no other purpose whatsoever: and in case the said debts of the said corporation, shall at any time, either by the means aforesaid, or by any other means, be wholly discharged, then and from thenceforth the said power of sale hereby given shall cease and determine.

wards dis-  
charging the  
debts of the  
corporation on  
account of the  
Middle and  
South Levels.

And be it further enacted and declared by the autho- Public act.  
rity aforesaid, That this act shall be deemed and allowed in all courts within this kingdom to be a public act; and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all judges, justices and other persons, without specially pleading the same.

NORFOLK.

LOT X.—No. 1.				
Denver Fen, North of Bedford River.				
		<i>A. R. P.</i>		
Margaret and Daniel Fryer	1822	251	0	0
Rev. Sam. C. Smith	1824	5	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	2	8	256	0
November	2	0		0

LOT IX.—No. 1.				
Denver Fen, South of Bedford River.				
John Flatt	1809	4	3	14
John Gamble	1813	119	0	26
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	2	4	124	0
November	1	9		0

LOT X.—No. 2.				
Severals of Denver, by the Grounds of Well.				
Richard Greaves Townley	1823	4	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	3	0	4	0
November	2	3		0

LOT VIII.—No. 7.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. A.				
John Thurlow Dering	1816	266	0	0
Jonathan Page	1823	34	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	300	0
November	0	9		0

LOT IX.—No. 8.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. B.				
John Thurlow Dering	1816	90	0	0
Ashley Cooper	1794	100	0	0
Jonathan Page	1823	110	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	300	0
November	0	9		0

LOT X.—No. 11.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. C.				
Ashley Cooper	1794	73	0	0
Jonathan Page	1823	179	0	0
William Headly and John Headly	1825	48	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	300	0
November	0	9		0

LOT XII.—No. 8.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. D.				
		<i>A. R. P.</i>		
John Hibbert	1821	93	0	0
William Headly and John Headly	1825	207	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	300	0
November	0	9		0

LOT XIV.—No. 8.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. E.				
William Jones	1807	212	0	0
John Hibbert	1814	70	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	282	0
November	0	9		0

LOT XVI.—No. 6.				
Hilgay and Southery Common. F.				
Osbert Parsley	1793	2	0	0
Samuel Smith	1794	238	0	0
John Hibbert	1817	60	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	300	0
November	0	9		0

LOT I.—No. 6.				
Hilgay Common, by Captain Skipwith's Bank.				
John Royle, clerk	1808	159	0	0
Robert Law, otherwise Prior	1820	159	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	4	318	0
November	1	0		0

LOT IX.—No 14.				
Read's Fen, in Hilgay.				
William Langley	1805	80	0	0
John Hibbert	1809	100	0	0
William Beeton	1809	7	0	0
John Goldsmith	1814	173	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	0	360	0
November	0	9		0

LOT X.—No. 3.				
Sir Henry Willoughby's Severals, East of Ouze.				
Robert Martin	1803	76	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	2	8	76	0
November	2	0		0

## LOT VII.—No. 11.

Sir Henry Willoughby's Severals, West of  
Ouze.

		<i>A. R. P.</i>
Stimson Baley	1803	6 2 23
William Jones	1807	69 1 17
	<i>s. d.</i>	
June Tax	1 4	76 0 0
November	1 0	

## LOT XV.—No. 14.

Mr. Gibbon's Grounds in Southery, by  
Priest's Houses.

John Hibbert	1811	20 0 0
June Tax	1 8	20 0 0
November	1 3	

## LOT XI.—No. 12.

Roxham Common.

Edward Roger Pratt	1784	94 0 0
June Tax	1 0	94 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT V.—No. 9.

Dereham Commons.

Part I. Dereham Cote Fen.

William Armstrong	1802	30 2 0
John Creasy	1820	64 2 0
June Tax	1 0	95 0 0
November	0 9	

Part II. Next Wereham.

Thomas Kett	1802	85 0 0
Anthony Hammond	1817	20 0 0
June Tax	1 0	105 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT VI.—No. 13.

Wereham Wretton and Stoke Common,  
next towards Stoke. A.

Sir James Duberly	1813	336 0 0
June Tax	0 8	336 0 0
November	0 6	

## LOT XIII.—No. 12.

Wereham Wretton and Stoke Common,  
next towards Dereham. B.

Henry Tingay	1822	200 0 0
June Tax	0 8	200 0 0
November	0 6	

## LOT V.—No. 15.

Northwold Common, A. next towards  
Stoke Bridge.

*James Bradfield		
*Saunders Bradfield	1807	200 0 0
June Tax	1 0	200 0 0
November	0 9	

\* The two names one person.

## LOT X.—No. 18.

Northwold Common. B.

*James Bradfield		
*Saunders Bradfield	1807	
	<i>s. d.</i>	
June Tax	1 0	
November	0 9	

## LOT VIII.—No. 13.

Northwold Common, by Stoke,  
Wissey.

*James Bradfield		
*Saunders Bradfield	1807	
June Tax	2 4	
November	1 9	

## LOT II.—No. 5.

Methwold Common, and Feltham  
Fen. A.

Sir Charles Oakley, Bart.	1822	
June Tax	0 4	
November	0 3	

## LOT III.—No. 8.

Methwold Common, &amp;c. B.

James Fortrey	1719	
Sir Charles Oakley, Bart.	1822	
June Tax	0 4	
November	0 3	

## LOT IV.—No. 6.

Methwold Common, &amp;c. C.

Joseph Vipan	1810	
Richard Vanheythuyson	1814	
June Tax	0 4	
November	0 3	

## LOT VI.—No. 9.

Methwold Common, &amp;c. D.

Joseph Vipan	1810	
Richard Vanheythuyson	1814	
June Tax	0 4	
November	0 3	

## LOT VII.—No. 6.

Methwold Common, &amp;c. E.

Harriott Wild and Wil- liam Wild	1800	
Owsley Rowley	1810	
Francis Stubbs	1815	
Ditto, Tax released to William Tokelove		
Robert Martin	1819	
Samuel Wells	1825	
June Tax	0 4	
November	0 3	

\* The four names one person.



LOT XI.—No. 8.

Methwold, &c. F.

		A.	R.	P.
Owsley Rowley	1809	100	3	9
John Hibbert	1814	80	0	0
William Register	1814	14	0	0
William Porter	1824	100	2	18
Francis Stubbs	1816	100	0	0
Ralph Pierson	1674	12	2	0
John Osler	1824	12	2	0
John Sayle	1826	25	0	0
Harry Spencer Wad- dington	1819	42	2	13
	s.	d.		
June Tax	0	8	488	0 0
November	0	6		

LOT XV.—No. 20.

Methwold Severals. D.

Part I. Formerly Lanes.

William Porter	1791	7	0	0	
Samuel Rhodes	1801	6	0	0	
William Jones	1809	223	0	0	
John Hibbert	1814	3	2	0	
Robert Martin	1819	15	0	0	
William Galloway	1825	2	2	0	
June Tax	0	8	257	0	0
November	0	6			

Part II. Formerly Moore's.

William Galloway	1825	6	2	0	
John Morse	1808	81	0	0	
John Hibbert	1814	6	2	0	
Robert Sayle	1816	6	0	0	
June Tax	1	4	100	0	0
November	1	0			

LOT VII.—No. 8.

Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen. A.

Ambrose Whiteman	1814	104	0	0
John Baker	1817	14	0	0
Simon Grimer, and Samuel Lancaster	1752	38	0	0
William Searle	1822	5	0	0
June Tax	0	8	161	0
November	0	6		

LOT VIII.—No. 10.

Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen. B.

John Baker	1817	261	0	0
June Tax	0	8	261	0
November	0	6		

LOT XVI.—No. 9.

Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen. C.

Robert Tokelove	1800	30	0	0
George Leonard Jenyns, clerk	1801	15	0	0
John Baker	1817	121	0	0
June Tax	0	8	166	0
November	0	6		

LOT XVII.—No. 8.

Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen. D.

		A.	R.	P.
Ambrose Whiteman	1814	150	0	0
John Baker	1813	119	0	0
	<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	0 8	269	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT IV.—No. 15.

Feltwell Severals. D.

Part I. Formerly Sir Thomas Wood-  
house's.

Randall Wabe	1807	30	0	0
June Tax	0 8	30	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II.—Parsonage Fen.

Isaac Leathes, clerk	1807	14	0	0
June Tax	0 8	14	0	0
November	0 6			

Part III.—Formerly Tyrel and Wood-  
house's.

Thomas Low	1811	23	3	20
June Tax	0 8	23	3	20
November	0 6			

Part IV. Formerly Wace's.

Margaret, the wife of Anthony Killingworth		3	0	5
Thomas Willett	1814	3	0	5
June Tax	0 8	<hr/> 6 0 10		
November	0 6	<hr/>		

Part V.—Formerly Paraley's.

John Baker	1813	6	0	10	
June Tax	0	8	6	0	10
November	0	6			

LOT XI.—No. 21.

Feltwell Severals. A.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipian	1824	216	0	0
June Tax	0 4	216	0	0
November	0 3			

LOT XIV.—No. 18.

Feltwell Severals. B.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipian	1824	146	0	0	
June Tax	0	4	146	0	0
November	0	3			

SUFFOLK.

LOT III.—No. 10.

Brandon Commons.

	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
John Julius Angerstein 1817	350	0	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	350 0 0
November	0	9	

LOT XIII.—No. 8.

South Cloud, a Common of Lakenheath.  
Francis King Eagle 1827

	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
	47	0	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	47 0 0
November	0	9	

LOT III.—No. 11.

North Cloud, a Common of Lakenheath.

John Baker 1813	58	2	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	4	58 2 0
November	1	0	

LOT III.—No. 12.

Lakenheath Severals. A.

Part I. Stallard Fen.

Francis King Eagle 1827	3	1	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	3 1 0
November	0	9	

Part II. Formerly Steward's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	6	1	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	6 1 0
November	0	9	

Part III. Formerly Coates's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	4	0	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	4 0 0
November	0	9	

Part IV. Formerly Wright's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	1	3	20
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	1 3 20
November	0	9	

Part V. Between Winter Lode and Cross Lode.

Francis King Eagle 1827	1	3	20
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	1 3 20
November	0	9	

Part VI. Formerly Hoker's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	2	0	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	2 0 0
November	0	9	

Part VII. Formerly Steward's.

	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
Francis King Eagle 1827	4	1	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	4 1 0
November	0	9	

Part VIII. Formerly Steward's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	2	3	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	2 3 0
November	0	9	

Part IX. Formerly Rushbrook's.

John Monkhouse 1797	15	2	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	15 2 0
November	0	9	

Part X. Part of 67 2 0. The Boatgang's.

John Robinson 1792	0	3	0
Francis King Eagle 1827	10	0	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	10 3 0
November	0	9	

LOT XIII.—No. 6.

Lakenheath Severals. B.

Part I. Part of 67 2 0. The Boatgang's.

John Robinson 1792	56	3	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	56 3 0
November	0	9	

Part II. Formerly Crane's.

Francis King Eagle 1827	8	2	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	8 2 0
November	0	9	

Part III. Formerly Barne's.

John Taylor 1800	9	1	0
Francis King Eagle 1827	0	3	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	10 0 0
November	0	9	

Part IV. Formerly Crane's.

Nathan Trudgett 1811	6	2	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	6 2 0
November	0	9	

Part V. Boatgang's large Several.

Francis King Eagle 1827	8	2	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	8 2 0
November	0	9	

Part VI. Boatgang's small Several.

Francis King Eagle 1827	3	3	0
<i>s. d.</i>			
June Tax	1	0	3 3 0
November	0	9	

## LOT IX.—No. 11.

A Several of Lakenheath by Cross Water.			
		<i>A. R. P.</i>	
John Trudgett	1790	8 0 0	
	<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1 0	8 0 0	
November	0 9		

## LOT I.—No. 7.

Townmoor in Lakenheath, &c. A.			
John Monkhouse	1797	181 2 19	
Evans Rolfe and Mary his Wife	1808	18 1 21	
June Tax	0 8	200 0 0	
November	0 6		

## LOT II.—No. 6.

Townmoor in Lakenheath. B.			
John Monkhouse	1797	100 0 0	
William Searle	1822	20 0 0	
John Raphael	1826	88 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 8		

## LOT III.—No. 9.

Townmoor in Lakenheath. C.			
Phillip, Earl of Hardwicke	1786	34 0 0	
John Raphael	1826	166 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT IV.—No. 7.

Townmoor in Mildenhall, &c. D.			
Thomas Archer	1792	150 0 0	
John Carpenter	1801	50 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT V.—No. 10.

Townmoor in Mildenhall Coplowe Fen. E.			
Henry Read	1803	154 0 0	
Thomas Archer	1799	46 0 0	
June Tax	1 0	200 0 0	
November	0 9		

## LOT VI.—No. 10.

Townmoor, &c. in Mildenhall. F.			
Henry Read	1803	6 1 0	
William Smith	1807	31 3 0	
William Warner, Jun.	1820	157 0 0	
William Searle	1822	4 0 0	
John Seaber	1825	1 0 0	
June Tax	0 8	200 0 0	
November	0 6		

## LOT VII.—No. 7.

Townmoor, &c. in Mildenhall. G.			
		<i>A. R. P.</i>	
Henry Read	1803	50 0 0	
William Warner, Jun.	1820	150 0 0	
	<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	0 8	200 0 0	
November	0 6		

## LOT VIII.—No. 8.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. H.			
Thomas Robinson	1825	102 0 0	
Henry Manning	1826	98 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT IX.—No. 10.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. I.			
Thomas Robinson	1825	200 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT X.—No. 12.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. K.			
Thomas Garratt	1823	200 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT XI.—No. 9.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. L.			
Thomas Garratt	1823	200 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

## LOT XII.—No. 9.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. M.			
Stephen Shillitoe	1824	200 0 0	
June Tax	0 8	200 0 0	
November	0 6		

## LOT XIII.—No. 7.

Townmoor, &c. in Lakenheath and Mildenhall. N.			
John Shillitoe, Jun.	1824	200 0 0	
June Tax	0 4	200 0 0	
November	0 3		

**LOT XV.—No. 7.**

Townmoor, Archingstall, &c. in Laken-  
beath and Mildenhall. O.

		A.	R.	P.
John Monkhouse	1797	73	3	26
John Shillitoe	1799	92	1	20
Evam Rolfe and Mary his Wife	1808	33	2	34
June Tax	0 4	200	0	0
November	0 3			

**LOT XVI.—No. 7.**

Townmoor, Eastmoor, &c. in Lakenbeath,  
Mildenhall, and Ely. P.

Thomas Read	1785	16	2	22
John Shillitoe	1808	49	3	5
John Robinson	1799	217	2	36
Evans Rolfe and Mary his Wife	1808	1	0	0
John Newdick	1826	9	3	17
June Tax	0 4	295	0	0
November	0 3			

**LOT VII.—No. 9.**

Berut Fen, Ely, Shell, and Shippey. A.

Part I. Farthest from Shippey.

Sir John Bayley	1808	150	0	0
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

Part II. Next Shippey.

Sir John Bayley	1808	146	0	0
Robert Watson	1795	4	0	0
June Tax	1 4	150	0	0
November	1 0			

**LOT VIII.—No. 9.**

Ely Shell, Mildenhall, &c. B.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

George Wing	1820	150	0	0
June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

George Wing	1820	150	0	0
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

**LOT IX.—No. 9.**

Ely Shell, Mildenhall, &c. C.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

Thomas Spooner	1817	150	0	0
June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

Thomas Spooner	1817	150	0	0
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

**LOT X.—No. 13.**

Ely Shell, Mildenhall, &c. D.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

		A.	R.	P.
John Hemington	1828	150	0	0
June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

Thomas Spooner	1819	150	0	0
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

**LOT XIII.—No. 9.**

Mildenhall, &c. E.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

Isaac Mears	1827	120	0	0
John Hemington	1828	30	0	0
June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

John Seaber	1787	68	0	0
Isaac Mears	1827	52	0	0
John Hemington	1828	30	0	0

June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

**LOT XIV.—No. 9.**

Mildenhall, &c. F.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

John Seaber	1808	75	1	34
John Seaber, jun.	1822	87	0	6

June Tax	0 8	162	2	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

John Seaber	1788	162	2	0
June Tax	1 0	162	2	0
November	0 9			

**LOT XV.—No. 8.**

Mildenhall, &c. G.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

Thomas Seaber	1819	36	3	12
John Seaber, jun.	1827	105	0	18
James Seaber	1819	8	0	10

June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Nearest the River.

John Seaber	1808	10	2	0
James Seaber	1819	69	2	0
John Seaber, jun.	1822	70	0	0

June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

**LOT XVIII.—No. 9.**

Mildenhall, &c. H.

Part I. Farthest from the River.

John Seaber, jun.	1827	84	3	35
James Seaber	1819	65	0	5

June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			



## Part II. Nearest the River.

		A.	R.	P.
John Seaber, jun.	1822	81	2	0
James Seaber	1819	68	2	0
	s. d.			
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XVI.—No. 8.

## Mildenhall, &amp;c. I.

## Part I. Farthest from the River.

Harriott and William Wild	1800	150	0	0
June Tax	0 4	150	0	0
November	0 3			

## Part II. Nearest the River.

James Burgess	1827	133	0	14
James Seaber	1819	16	3	26
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XIX.—No. 5.

## Mildenhall, &amp;c. K.

## Part I. Farthest from the River.

Harriott and William Wild	1800	150	0	0
June Tax	0 8	150	0	0
November	0 6			

## Part II. Nearest the River.

Harriott and William Wild	1800	104	1	0
James Burgess	1827	45	3	0
June Tax	1 0	150	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT I.—No. 8.

## Whelpmoor, Lowelmoor, and Spain's Delph.

	A.			
Jonathan Page	1780	111	0	0
Thomas Page	1815	367	0	0
June Tax	1 4	478	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT II.—No. 7.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. B.

Harriott and William Wild	1800	170	1	7
Thomas Page	1815	58	2	0
Thomas Waddelow	1824	232	0	33
June Tax	1 4	461	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT IV.—No. 8.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. C.

	A.	R.	P.
Thomas Waddelow	1824	127	1 22
Samuel Farmer	1802	333	2 10
	s. d.		
June Tax	1 4	461	0 0
November	1 0		

## LOT V.—No. 11.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. D.

Samuel Farmer	1802	238	0	0
Smith Flanders	1813	203	0	0
Charles Jenyns	1822	220	0	0
June Tax	1 8	661	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT VI.—No. 11.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. E.

Joseph Little	1780	361	0	0
Smith Flanders	1813	100	0	0
June Tax	0 8	461	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XII.—No. 10.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. F.

## Part I. Mr. Bradburne's, next the Draw Way.

Smith Flanders	1813	40	0	0
June Tax	1 4	40	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part II. The remainder of the Lot.

Smith Flanders	1813	107	0	0
Sir Charles Morgan, bart.	1781	231	0	0
William Mears and Thomas Teague	1827	184	0	0
June Tax	0 8	522	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XIV.—No. 10.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. G.

John Winter	1805	22	2	0
Jonathan Page	1814	112	3	23
Thomas Page	1815	318	2	17
June Tax	0 8	454	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XIX.—No. 6.

## Whelpmoor, &amp;c. H.

Sir Thomas Willis and Sir Thomas Dayrell	1657	15	2	0
Sir John Bayley	1808	35	0	0
John Robinson	1803	348	3	26
Aun Marshall	1811	160	2	14
Thomas Page	1815	200	0	0
June Tax	0 8	760	0	0
November	0 6			

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

## LOT XIV.—No. 1.

Isleham Common. D.

### Part I. Farthest from the River.

		A.	R.	P.
James Audis	1815	2	2	17
Ditto, Tax released		10	0	0
James and Joseph Col- len	1816	1	2	0
Ditto, Tax released		3	2	0
William Fletcher	1819	4	0	0
George Wells, John Webber, Henry Clark, and John Collen	1821	23	0	15
John Parr	1823	4	0	0
John Webber, Tax released		51	1	8
	s. d.			
June Tax	0 8	100	0	0
November	0 6			

### Part II. Nearest the River.

Thomas Seaber	1793	31	0	0
Charles Shelford Bid- well	1802	0	1	0
John Clark	1815	11	0	0
William Talbot, and Mary his wife	1815	36	2	0
George Wells, John Webber, Henry Clark, and John Collen	1821	10	0	0
Peter Fincham		0	0	20
John Fincham	1826	0	0	20
James Seaber	1826	11	0	0
June Tax	1 0	100	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT VII.—No. 1.

Isleham Common. C.

### Part I. Farthest from the River.

John Clarke	1820	9	0	0
William Gunstone	1820	6	0	0
James Seaber	1825	80	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		20	0	0
June Tax	0 8	115	0	0
November	0 6			

### Part II. Nearest the River.

William and Benjamin Houghton	1802	11	1	0
Thomas Sindell	1808	20	0	0
William Talbot, and Mary his wife	1815	11	1	8
Titus Fuller	1824	0	0	21
James Seaber	1826	72	1	11
June Tax	1 0	115	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT VI.—No. 1.

Isleham Common. B.

### Part I. Farthest from the River.

		A.	R.	P.
John Shearing	1793	110	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		15	0	0
June Tax	s. d.	125	0	0
November	0 6			

### Part II. Nearest the River.

James Collen	1788	2	2	0
Ditto, Tax released		14	2	20
John Collen	1793	1	1	36
Ditto, Tax released		5	1	20
John Clark	1810	11	0	0
Jonathan Turner	1818	5	0	0
John Shearing	1818	54	0	4
John Norman	1822	12	0	0
Brown Wells, Tax re- leased		9	0	0
John Starling, Ditto		10	0	0
June Tax	1 0	125	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT III.—No. 1.

Isleham Common. A.

### Part I. Farthest from the River.

John Shearing	1793	119	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		4	0	0
John Smith and Tho- mas Bartle, Tax released	1791	2	0	0
June Tax	0 8	125	0	0
November	0 6			

### Part II. Nearest the River.

Richard Seaber, jun.	1771	0	2	0
Charles Pond and Ro- bert Cadman	1791	15	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		3	0	0
William Jolly and Ro- bert Cadman	1798	6	1	0
Robert Watson	1811	17	0	0
John Shearing	1798	64	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		5	0	0
Thomas Brook	1815	0	1	0
James Seaber, Tax re- leased		14	0	0
June Tax	1 0	125	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XVIII.—No. 6.

Soham Commons in Great Metlam. C.			
		A.	R. P.
Jonathan Page	1816	240	3 13
William Dunn Gardner	1816	108	2 37
John Shearing	1816	219	1 30
June Tax	s. d.		
November	0 8	569	0 0
	0 6		

## LOT XV.—No. 6.

Great Metlam, Little Metlam, and the Hasse in Soham. A.			
William Horsly	1791	15	0 0
Harriott Wild and			
William Wild	1800	350	0 0
William Crisp, jun.	1808	100	0 0
John Dobede	1827	35	0 0
June Tax	0 8	500	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT XVII.—No. 7.

Great Metlam, &c. B.			
Thomas Whitred	1809	200	0 0
William Dunn Gardner	1818	300	0 0
June Tax	0 8	500	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT XIII.—No. 5.

Sir Robert Heath's several Grounds in Soham.			
Thomas Seaber, jun. and John Seaber	1794	45	0 0
John Clarke	1810	11	0 28
Thomas Read	1804	7	2 38
Robert Watson, jun.	1815	12	3 0
Ditto, Tax released		2	0 0
Jonathan Page	1816	210	0 0
Thomas Seaber, Tax released	1772	10	0 0
John Seaber	1818	121	1 14
June Tax	0 8	420	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT IV.—No. 2.

Barway Middle, and Fordey in Soham.

## Part I. Fordey.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822	156	2 0
June Tax	2 4	156	2 0
November	1 9		

## Part II. Barway Middle.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822	74	2 0
June Tax	2 4	74	2 0
November	1 9		

## LOT XVIII.—No. 7.

Two Severals of Soham.

## Part I. Bugbeach.

A. R. P.			
Lord John Townshend, J. Smith, and Francis Wm. Saunders	1811	1	0 0
June Tax	2 0	1	0 0
November	1 6		

## Part II. A Several between East Fen and Calf Fen.

Lord J. Townshend, J. Smith, and Francis William Saunders	1811	8	0 0
June Tax	2 0	8	0 0
November	1 6		

## LOT XIV.—No. 5.

Fordham Common.

Charles Pollett Brown Chatteris	1819	27	0 0
June Tax	0 8	27	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT XVIII.—No. 2.

Wicken High Fen.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822	30	0 0
June Tax	1 8	30	0 0
November	1 3		

## LOT XIII.—No. 2.

Wicken High Fen.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822	60	0 0
J. Wm. Drage Merest	1810	45	1 32
Thomas Granger	1814	14	2 8
June Tax	2 4	120	0 0
November	1 9		

## LOT VI.—No. 5.

Wicken High Fen.

J. Wm. Drage Merest	1810	23	1 0
June Tax	1 8	23	1 0
November	1 3		

## LOT X.—No. 4.

Wicken High Fen.

John William Drage Merest	1810	21	0 0
June Tax	1 8	21	0 0
November	1 3		

LOT XIV.—No. 4.

Mr. Barrow's Sedge Fen Several in Wicken.

		A.	R.	P.
Elizabeth Cromwell	1676	21	0	0
June Tax	0 8	21	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT X.—No. 9.

Str E. Peyton's Sedge Fen Several in Wicken.

Edward Howlet	1802	14	0	0
June Tax	0 8	14	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT X.—No. 5.

Mr. Barrow's embanked Grounds in Wicken.

Thomas Kecke, and Anthony Kecke	1657	7	0	0
June Tax	1 0	7	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT VI.—No. 4.

Upwere Farm in Wicken.

John Newman	1824	5	0	0
June Tax	3 8	5	0	0
November	2 9			

LOT XIV.—No. 3.

Wicken Sedge Fen.

Sarah, the wife of Thomas Adams	1803	71	0	0
William Pratt	1801	77	0	0
John Pond	1817	30	0	0
John Aspland	1743	20	0	0
William Wilkin	1814	67	0	0
Elizabeth, the wife of Edward William Pen- chey Sarah, the wife of Joseph Man- ning; and Mary, the wife of Mark Parr		35	0	0
June Tax	0 8	300	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT X.—No. 8.

Burwell Common. A.

Joseph Chapman	1789	43	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		22	0	0
Joseph Manning, jun.	1813	16	1	0
John Harwood	1813	47	1	14
Richard Foster, sen. and jun.	1817	20	0	0
Mark Parr, and Mary his wife	1814	21	0	0
David Danby	1820	18	0	0
Sarah, wife of William Faircliff	1817	29	1	26
William Pratt	1824	30	0	0
June Tax	0 8	247	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XIII.—No. 4.

Burwell Common. B.

		A.	R.	P.
Sarah, wife of William Faircliff	1821	102	0	0
Mark Parr, and Mary his wife	1814	46	2	0
John Harwood	1813	71	2	0
John Pond	1817	40	0	0
Joseph Chapman	1798	33	0	0
June Tax	0 4	293	0	0
November	0 3			

LOT XV.—No. 5.

Burwell Common. C.

John Hill	1798	4	0	0
Thomas Markham	1815	20	0	0
Robert Harding	1824	34	0	0
Sarah Harding	1824	26	2	20
Simeon Chambers, and Mary his wife	1824	26	2	20
Stephen Piper	1826	48	3	0
June Tax	0 8	160	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT IX.—No. 15.

Swaffham Sedge Fen, 180 acres; part of  
High Fen, 5 acres; and part of Croyle,  
4 acres.

Part I. 180 acres, Swaffham Sedge Fen.

George Leonard Jonyns, (clerk)	1789	15	2	14
George Chambers	1810	38	1	11
The Lord Bishop of Ely	1814	4	1	23
The Vicar of Swaffham Prior	1814	14	2	22
William Wells	1818	4	3	31
Daniel Wells	1818	4	3	30
Thomas Osler and Su- sannah his wife	1821	9	1	12
John Prendergast Hack- et and James Wit- tet Lyon	1821	76	2	37
Thomas Musgrave, (clerk)	1827	11	0	20
June Tax	0 4	180	0	0
November	0 3			

Part II. 5 acres, part of 11a. 3r. 6p. in High  
Fen, adjoining Sedge Fen; lying with  
Lot VIII.—No. 1.

The Vicar of Swaffham Prior	1814	5	0	0
June Tax	0 4	5	0	0
November	0 3			



Part III. 4 acres, part of a piece of land containing 15 acres, more or less, in Croyle; lying with Lot XII.—No. 4. being the corner piece, at the north-east end of the said Lot.

		A.	R.	P.
Benjamin Ashman	1722	4	0	0
June Tax	0 4	4	0	0
November	0 3			

#### LOT VIII.—No. 1.

Swaffham High Fen. A.				
Robert Hunt	1814	54	1	0
Richard Foster	1806	20	2	11
Thomas Harrison	1800	11	2	0
John Wright	1815	26	3	7
Stephen Piper	1826	7	0	20
William Wilkin	1814	1	2	16
The Lord Bishop of Ely	1814	8	3	25
The Vicar of Swaffham				
Prior	1814	10	2	0
John Hibbert	1814	36	0	11
John Prendergast Hack-				
et and James Wit-				
tet Lyon	1821	13	2	0
Haylock Cross	1814	9	0	30
June Tax	1 0	200	0	0
November	0 9			

#### LOT XV.—No. 1.

Swaffham High Fen. B.				
Robert Hunt	1804	25	0	0
George Chambers	1786	71	0	3
John Wright	1791	45	0	34
John Hibbert	1807	11	0	1
The Lord Bishop of Ely	1814	31	3	10
The Vicar of Swaffham				
Prior	1814	15	3	32
June Tax	1 4	200	0	0
November	1 0			

#### LOT X.—No. 7.

Croyle in Swaffham, A. next to the Hard Lands.				
Benjamin Ashman	1722	98	0	0
John Peter Allix	1807	102	0	0
June Tax	0 8	200	0	0
November	0 6			

#### LOT XII.—No. 4.

Croyle in Swaffham. B.				
William Mott	1792	6	2	26
John Peter Allix	1807	44	2	28
John Crisp, and Mary, the wife of William Palmsby	1814	66	1	13
Ann, the wife of Frederick Bloss,	1814	26	0	0
James Muglestone	1816	16	0	0
Robert Wilkinson	1821	40	1	13
June Tax	0 8	200	0	0
November	0 6			

#### LOT XVII.—No. 13.

White Fen, next towards the Hard Lands.

		A.	R.	P.
William Randall	1790	23	1	0
Carter Fyson	1801	25	0	0
William Mott	1804	25	0	0
James Hancock	1804	25	0	0
Thomas Reynolds	1805	12	1	0
Holmes Cornwell	1805	12	1	0
James Thompson	1805	12	1	0
Robert Randall	1805	51	2	0
Amy Stanton	1806	12	1	0
John Ellis	1824	12	1	0
June Tax	0 4	211	0	0
November	0 3			

#### LOT XV.—No. 16.

White Fen in Swaffham, next Bottisham High Fen.

Sir Charles Morgan, bt. 1764	200	0	0
June Tax	0	4	200 0 0
November	0	3	

#### LOT I.—No. 2.

Bottisham High Fen.

##### Part I. Formerly Blake's.

Thomas Sharp	1815	46	0	0
Carter Fyson	1805	24	0	0
June Tax	2 0	70	0	0
November	1 6			

##### Part II. Formerly Denton's.

Stephen Danby	1781	5	0	0
Thomas Hatley	1814	28	0	0
Carter Fyson	1815	7	0	0
Thomas Sharp	1815	30	0	0
June Tax	2 4	70	0	0
November	1 9			

#### LOT II.—No. 9.

Bottisham Qui, and Ditton Intercommos, next Bottisham Lode. A.

Samuel Bull	1807	20	0	0
Sarah Hunt	1807	20	0	0
Holmes Cornwell	1809	20	0	0
Thomas Hatley	1814	40	0	0
June Tax	0 4	100	0	0
November	0 3			

#### LOT VIII.—No. 12.

Bottisham Horningsey, &c. B.

Lawrence Cook	1728	30	0	0
Francis Bradwell	1803	10	0	0
Richard Rayment	1805	50	0	0
William Mustill	1827	10	0	0
June Tax	0 4	100	0	0
November	0 3			

LOT X.—No. 17.

		A.	R.	P.
Bottisham, Horningsey, &c. C.				
Thomas Musgrave, (clerk)	1826	100	0	0
June Tax	0	4		
November	0	3		

LOT XIV.—No. 12.

Horningsey High Fen. D.				
Ann Gattiward Collier	1780	100	0	0
June Tax	0	8		
November	0	6		

LOT XIX. No. 1.

Waterbeach Fen, by Garden Tree.				
William Wilson	1801	20	0	0
Thomas Webb	1801	11	0	0
William Wiles	1801	30	0	0
Henry Dogget	1801	10	0	0
Richard Burling	1802	10	0	0
William Clay	1802	5	0	0
Daniel Reynolds	1802	5	0	0
James Wentworth	1824	10	0	0
William Hall	1825	11	0	0
June Tax	2	4		
November	1	9		

LOT XII No. 1.

Waterbeach Joist Fen, Wicken Lammas Grounds, adjoining to Joist Fen, and the several Grounds of Edwards, Peyton, and Dalton. A.				
Sir Joseph Sydney Yorke	1827	250	0	0
June Tax	1	4		
November	1	0		

LOT XVI. No. 1.

Waterbeach, &c. B.				
Philip, Earl of Hard- wicke	1806	250	0	0
June Tax	1	4		
November	1	0		

LOT XVII.—No. 1.

Waterbeach, &c. C.				
Phillip, Earl of Hard- wicke	1811	201	3	0
June Tax	1	4		
November	1	0		

LOT XIX.—No. 2.

		A.	R.	P.
Cottenham Common.				
John Moore and John Smith	1800	10	0	0
James Greaves and Thomas Greaves	1800	10	0	0
William Few and John Taylor	1800	10	0	0
William Bull and John Greaves	1807	10	0	0
John Spackman and Richardson Spack- man	1800	10	0	0
John Nottage	1800	10	0	0
James Pigott and John Emmerson	1800	10	0	0
Richard Norman and John Haird	1800	10	0	0
John Furbank and Thomas Corbitt	1800	10	0	0
John Wayman and Benjamin Moor	1800	10	0	0
William Watson	1800	10	0	0
William Kimpton and John Papworth	1813	10	0	0
James Collins and John Todd	1814	10	0	0
Stephen Saunderson	1800	10	0	0
Benjamin Moor and William Moor	1800	10	0	0
Thomas Ivatt	1800	10	0	0
John Greaves, sen.	1800	20	0	0
Jeremiah Cross	1800	10	0	0
John Sainty and James Sainty	1800	20	0	0
William Ivatt	1800	20	0	0
William Greaves	1803	5	0	0
Simon Goodman	1823	5	0	0
June Tax	3	0		
November	2	3		

LOT VII.—No. 3.

Rampton Commons.				
Robert Ellis	1826	16	0	0
June Tax	2	8		
November	2	0		

LOT XV.—No. 2.

Hempshall in Willingham.				
John Newnan	1796	53	0	0
June Tax	3	4		
November	2	6		

LOT III.—No. 2.

Middle Ditch Fen, in Willingham.				
William Asplin	1805	17	2	28
John Dodson and Eli- zabeth, his wife	1805	20	2	10
Robert Osborn	1807	7	3	1
William Osborn	1807	11	3	0
Mary Osborn	1816	19	2	1
June Tax	3	8		
November	2	9		

## LOT VI.—No. 2.

Chattocks, or Langridge, in Willingham.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
William Asplin	1794	53	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	53	0	0
November	2 9			

## LOT III.—No. 3.

Great Shelford in Willingham.

Robert Osborn	1807	9	3	0
Osborn Lack	1807	3	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	12	3	0
November	2 9			

## LOT VI.—No. 3.

Babies Hern, in Willingham.

William Asplin	1805	8	2	11
John Dodson	1805	5	0	29
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	13	8	0
November	2 9			

## LOT X.—No. 6.

Stacks in Willingham.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
William Berry		7	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 2 4	7	0	0
November	1 9			

## LOT XVII.—No. 4.

Little Shelford, in Willingham.

Elizabeth Taylor	1776	7	1	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	7	1	0
November	2 9			

## LOT XIV.—No. 2.

Over Common.

Robert West, Robert Wapole, Edward Gibson, Roger Pecke, and Thomas Collett	1666	171	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3	171	0	0
November	2 9			

## ISLE OF ELY.

## LOT I.—No. 1.

Haddenham Common. A.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
Mary Langman	1783	50	0	0
Hugh Robert Evans	1809	36	3	0
Elizabeth Papworth	1822	13	1	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8	100	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT II.—No. 1.

Haddenham Common. B.

Elizabeth Papworth	1822	100	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8	100	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT IV.—No. 1.

Haddenham Common. C.

Francis Hitch	1753	25	0	0
John Read and William Pate	1810	50	0	0
John Camps	1799	25	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8	100	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT V.—No. 1.

Haddenham Common. D.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
William Sutton	1826	14	0	0
John Read	1790	15	0	0
George Waddington, (clerk)	1828	13	0	0
James Biddell	1814			
Tax released to Isaac Wright		36	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8	78	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT VIII.—No. 2.

Haddenham Severals.

Part I. Ewell Fen.

Joseph Vipian	1825	36	2	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	36	2	0
November	2 9			

Part II. Formerly March's.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	1	0	0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 3 8	1	0	0
November	2 9			

Part III. Formerly Cally Croft.

John Eden Leeds	1805	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>A. R. P.</i>
June Tax	3 8		0 2 8
November	2 9		

Part IV. Lindon Dolea.

Richard Hopkins	1822		4 2 0
John Dodson	1822		4 2 0

June Tax	2 8		9 0 0
November	2 0		

Part V. Priest Croft.

Phillip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790		1 0 0
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June Tax	2 8		1 0 0
November	2 0		

Part VI. Hill Dolea.

Benjamin Leland	1789		10 2 0
Isaac Wright	1792		1 0 0
John Lambert	1806		2 1 12
Aaron Browne	1808		1 2 28

June Tax	2 8		15 2 0
November	2 0		

Part VII. Overdelphs and Pingles.

Thomas Ind and Mary his Wife	1793		4 0 0
Sarah, the Wife of Robert Barlow	1809		13 0 0
William Huckle	1809		2 0 0
Edward Hodson	1823		23 0 0

June Tax	2 8		42 0 0
November	2 0		

Part VIII. Netherdelphs.

Francis Knight	1803		10 0 0
Ditto, Tax released			8 0 0
Edward Hodson	1823		5 3 22
Thomas Pike, Tax released			6 0 0

June Tax	2 8		29 3 22
November	2 0		

Part IX. Formerly White's.

Edward Hodson	1823		1 0 10
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June Tax	2 8		1 0 10
November	2 0		

Part X. Formerly Pamplyns.

William Bedford	1821		0 2 0
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June Tax	2 8		0 2 0
November	2 0		

Part XI. Formerly Wines.

William Bedford	1821		0 1 10
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June Tax	2 8		0 1 10
November	2 0		

Part XII. Audrey Causeway.

Edward Hodson	1823		0 2 30
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June Tax	2 8		0 2 30
November	2 0		

LOT VII.—No. 2.

Wilburton Common and Severals.

Part I. Skeg Fen, and Rush Fen Commons.

Mr. Serjeant Pell	1827	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>A. R. P.</i>
June Tax	3 0		117 2 0
November	2 3		

Part II. Wilburton Severals.

Mr. Serjeant Pell	1827		6 2 0
June Tax	3 0		6 2 0
November	2 3		

LOT V.—No. 2.

Streatham Common.

Edward Morden	1810		21 2 5
King Charles	1810		20 3 15
William Wright	1827		26 1 22
Richard Ramsden, D.D.	1814		48 1 34
Richard Norman	1812		21 0 10
Frederick Sharp	1825		22 3 34
David Clarke	1826		11 1 0

June Tax	1 8		172 2 0
November	1 3		

LOT XVII.—No. 3.

Fidwell Fen, in Streatham.

William Sayer Reed	1803		60 0 0
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June Tax	1 4		60 0 0
November	1 0		

LOT XVIII.—No. 3.

Langmoor and Boatgangs, in Streatham.

Part I. The Boatgangs.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822		14 2 25
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June Tax	2 0		14 2 25
November	1 6		

Part II. Harrimere.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822		0 2 15
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June Tax	2 0		0 2 15
November	1 6		

Part III. Langmoor.

Thomas Granger and Edward Tingey Granger	1822		2 1 0
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June Tax	2 0		2 1 0
November	1 6		

LOT XV.—No. 10.

ELY.

Quaney Farm.

James Benthams (clerk)	1787		12 0 0
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June Tax	1 4		12 0 0
November	1 0		

LOT XV.—No. 9.

Thorney Farm, by Stuntney.

Harry Spencer Waddington			47 0 0
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June Tax	1 4		47 0 0
November	1 0		



## LOT XI.—No. 10.

Norrey Farm.

		A.	R.	P.
John Hatch	1802	75	0	0
Harry Spencer Wad-				
dington	1811	4	0	0
	s.	d.		
June Tax	1	0	79	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT I.—No. 10.

Stuntney Farm.

John Casburn	1708	22	0	0
June Tax	1	4	22	0
November	1	0		0

## LOT I.—No. 11.

Stuntney Small Severals.

Richard Wilson, jun.	1803	12	0	0
June Tax	1	4	12	0
November	1	0		0

## LOT IX.—No. 4.

Bream Farm, by Ely.

Seth Bull	1797	4	0	0
June Tax	3	8	4	0
November	2	9		0

## LOT I.—No. 9.

Stuntney Common.

William Jugg	1798	16	0	0
Thomas Rayner, jun.	1817	16	0	0
June Tax	1	4	32	0
November	1	0		0

## LOT XII.—No. 12.

Downham Common and Several, and Ely Cow Fen, exchanged for part of Downham Common.

Part I. Cow Fen, in Ely.

William Harlock	1816	67	2	17
Robert Fletcher	1817	20	1	23
June Tax	2	4	88	0
November	1	9		0

Part II. Downham Common.

John Hibbert	1814	45	0	0
Francis Tingay	1814	15	0	0
Philip Hopkin, jun.	1815	38	0	0
John Simpson and Rebecca his Wife	1815	38	2	7
Robert Harlock and Ann his Wife	1823	8	2	0
Richard Hopkin	1823	56	2	0
William Harlock	1823	33	3	33
Henry Salmon	1805	12	0	0
Joseph Hopkin	1815	45	0	0
Thomas Maser	1825	8	0	0

June Tax	0	4	300	2
November	0	3		0

## Part III. Carter's Several, in Downham.

		A.	R.	P.
Henry Waddelow	1808	1	2	0
June Tax	s.	d.	1	2
November	0	3		0

## LOT IV.—No. 17.

LITTLEPORT.

Mr. Tyrrel's Grounds, by Priest Houses. A.

Dyson Savage	1817	27	0	0
June Tax	1	0	27	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT XIII.—No. 10.

Sir Miles Sandy's Embanked Grounds, next Priest Houses. A.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	70	0	0
June Tax	1	0	70	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT IV.—No. 9.

Sir Miles Sandy's Embanked Grounds. B.

Dyson Savage	1803	115	0	0
June Tax	1	0	115	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT VII. No. 10.

Sir Miles Sandy's Embanked Grounds, next Crouchmoor, in Littleport. C.

John Hibbert	1809	115	0	0
June Tax	1	0	115	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT XIX.—No. 7.

Mr. Tower's Crouchmoor.

Bailey Stimson	1781	70	0	0
June Tax	1	0	70	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT XIII.—No. 11.

Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor, next Hale Fen.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	45	0	0
June Tax	1	0	45	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT XIX.—No. 8.

Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor, farthest from Hale Fen.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	10	0	0
June Tax	1	0	10	0
November	0	9		0

## LOT XV.—No. 11.

Richard Ward's Severals, in Littleport, by Prall's Were.

William Begley	1808	3	0	0
June Tax	1	4	3	0
November	1	0		0

LOT XV.—No. 12.

A Several belonging to Welney Chapel, in Littleport.

William Webb	1809	<i>A. R. P.</i> 1 0 0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 4	1 0 0
November	1 0	

LOT X.—No. 15.

Littleport Seversals. A.

Part I. Formerly the Wood Ground.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	14 0 0
June Tax	1 4	14 0 0
November	1 0	

Part II. Apeshall.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	27 0 0
June Tax	1 4	27 0 0
November	1 0	

LOT XI.—No. 11.

Littleport Seversals. B. Called the Crofts.

Part I. Cade's Croft.

Mary, the Wife of William Cross	1813	5 2 12
June Tax	1 4	5 2 12
November	1 0	

Part II. Formerly Crabbs' and Collins'.

William Cutlack	1813	8 3 22
June Tax	1 4	8 3 22
November	1 0	

Part III. Formerly Smith and Horn's.

William Shrewsbury	1770	3 3 10
June Tax	1 4	3 3 10
November	1 0	

Part IV. Formerly Hand and Alderton's.

William Shrewsbury	1770	8 3 20
June Tax	1 4	8 3 20
November	1 0	

Part V. Formerly Cook and Wadle's.

Thomas Brasset	1738	4 0 0
June Tax	1 4	4 0 0
November	1 0	

Part VI. Formerly Goat and Neal's.

Thomas Brasset	1738	3 0 32
June Tax	1 4	3 0 32
November	1 0	

Part VII. Formerly Vernell's.

William Pallett, and Elizabeth, the Wife of William Waudby	1807	1 0 15
June Tax	1 4	1 0 15
November	1 0	

Part VIII. Formerly Day's.

William Pallett, and Elizabeth, the Wife of William Waudby	1807	<i>A. R. P.</i> 5 3 25
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 4	5 3 25
November	1 0	

Part IX. Formerly Chamber and Smith's.

William Pallett, and Elizabeth, the Wife of William Waudby	1807	4 2 5
June Tax	1 4	4 2 5
November	1 0	

Part X. Formerly Wilson and Payne's.

Thomas Brasset	1738	3 2 5
June Tax	1 4	3 2 5
November	1 0	

Part XI. Formerly Goat and Aspland's.

John Peacock	1806	5 0 15
June Tax	1 4	5 0 15
November	1 0	

Part XII. Formerly Milsop and Groom's.

William Crabb	1791	4 0 10
June Tax	1 4	4 0 10
November	1 0	

Part XIII. Formerly Sir Miles Sandy's.

John Gotobed	1823	6 0 15
June Tax	1 4	6 0 15
November	1 0	

Part XIV. Formerly John Milsop's.

Christopher Clark	1819	6 1 10
June Tax	1 4	6 1 10
November	1 0	

Part XV. Formerly Meadows.

Thomas Dove	1769	7 2 30
June Tax	1 4	7 2 30
November	1 0	

Part XVI. Formerly Alexander's and others.

Thomas Dove	1769	6 2 30
June Tax	1 4	6 2 30
November	1 0	

Part XVII. Archdeacon's Croft.

William Cutlack	1806	20 0 0
June Tax	1 4	20 0 0
November	1 0	

Part XVIII. Formerly Milsop and White's.

William Webb	1809	4 2 15
June Tax	1 4	4 2 15
November	1 0	

## Part XIX. Formerly Wright's.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
John Hibbert	1825	3	3	0
June Tax	1 4	3	3	0
November	1 0			

## Part XX. Formerly Clark's.

Christopher Clarke	1715	2	3	0
June Tax	1 4	2	3	0
November	1 0			

## Part XXI. Formerly Vere's and Mare's.

Christopher Clarke	1715	3	0	0
June Tax	1 4	3	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part XXII. Formerly Sharpe and Wilson's.

Christopher Clarke	1763	6	3	20
June Tax	1 4	6	3	20
November	1 0			

## Part XXIII. Formerly Thomas Milsop's.

Christopher Clarke	1763	9	1	12
June Tax	1 4	9	1	12
November	1 0			

## Part XXIV. Formerly Lukin's.

John Taylor	1769	1	0	0
Christopher Clarke	1763	13	0	0
June Tax	1 4	14	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part XXV. Formerly the Widow Crabb's.

Christopher Clarke	1763	16	3	0
June Tax	1 4	16	3	0
November	1 0			

## Part XXVI. Apeshall.

Philip, Earl of Hardwicke	1790	3	0	0
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June Tax	1 4	3	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part XXVII. Formerly Cole and Johnson's.

Christopher Clarke	1763	2	1	0
William Pallett, and Elizabeth the Wife of William Waudby	1807	9	3	10

June Tax	1 4	12	0	10
November	1 0			

## Part XXVIII. Formerly Goat's, Day's, and others.

William Pallett, and Elizabeth, the Wife of William Waudby	1807	7	3	2
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June Tax	1 4	7	3	2
November	1 0			

## Part XXIX. Formerly Broughton's and others.

George Waddington	1767	4	0	35
William Pallett, and Elizabeth, the Wife of William Waudby	1807	1	0	0

June Tax	1 4	5	0	35
November	1 0			

## Part XXX. Cambridge Croft.

		<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
Thomas Brassett	1738	8	2	10
June Tax	1 4	8	2	10
November	1 0			

## LOT II.—No. 17.

Westmoor, South of Bedford River.

The 20th piece from Welney. A.

Harry Spencer Waddington.	1820	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XVII.—No. 24.

Westmoor, South. B.

The 19th Piece from Welney.

John Upshire, and Mary his Wife	1807	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT VIII.—No. 22.

Westmoor, South. C.

The 18th Piece from Welney.

John Upshire, and Mary, his Wife	1807	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XIV.—No. 20.

Westmoor, South. D.

The 17th Piece from Welney.

John Upshire, and Mary, his Wife	1807	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XIII.—No. 21.

Westmoor, South. E.

The 16th Piece from Welney.

Richard Gill	1804	34	0	0
William Langman Gill	1804	16	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XVIII.—No. 22.

Westmoor South. F.

The 15th Piece from Welney.

William Eagle	1801	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XI.—No. 23.

Westmoor, South. G.

The 14th Piece from Welney.

John Abbott, and Elizabeth, his Wife	1784	50	0	0
June Tax	0 8	50	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT VI.—No. 21.

Westmoor, South. H.				
The 13th Piece from Welney.				
		<i>A. R. P.</i>		
William Tingay	1801	33	0	0
John Harrison	1827	17	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT XVI.—No. 18.

Westmoor, South. I.				
The 12th Piece from Welney.				
John Upshire, and				
Mary, his Wife				
	1807	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT IV.—No. 20.

Westmoor, South. K.				
The 11th Piece from Welney.				
John Bringhurst, clerk,				
and Sarah, his Wife				
	1706	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT XX.—No. 3.

Westmoor, South. L.				
The 10th Piece from Welney.				
Lavender Rayner	1811	33	0	0
Jonathan Brown	1827	17	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT XII.—No. 19.

Westmoor, South. M.				
The 9th piece from Welney.				
William Mendham	1779	20	0	0
John Upshire, and				
Mary, his wife				
	1807	30	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT XV.—No. 23.

Westmoor, South. N.				
The 8th Piece from Welney.				
John Waxham	1818	8	2	0
Thomas Waxham	1818	16	2	0
William Waxham	1818	8	2	0
Jonathan Page	1828	16	2	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT VII.—No. 20.

Westmoor, South. O.				
The 7th Piece from Welney.				
Jonathan Brown	1815	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT I.—No. 24.

Westmoor, South. P.				
The 6th Piece from Welney.				
		<i>A. R. P.</i>		
Jonathan Brown	1815	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT XIX.—No. 17.

Westmoor, South. Q.				
The 5th Piece from Welney.				
William Martin	1802	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT V.—No. 23.

Westmoor, South. R.				
The 4th Piece from Welney.				
William Martin	1802	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT III.—No. 22.

Westmoor, South. S.				
The 3d Piece from Welney.				
Joseph Vipan	1825	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT IX.—No. 23.

Westmoor, South. T.				
The 2d Piece from Welney.				
Joseph Vipan	1825	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT X.—No. 31.

Westmoor South. V.				
The next Piece to Welney.				
William Cole	1731	50	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			50	0 0

LOT III.—No. 6.

Westmoor, South. A.				
Part I. In the Wash.				
William Cole	1692	44	0	0
William Hopkinson	1827	46	2	0
John Vipan	1827	46	2	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			137	0 0

Part II. Out of the Wash.

William Cole	1692	21	0	0
William Barnes	1812	21	0	0
William Hopkinson	1827	21	0	0
		<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax		0	8	
November		0	6	
			63	0 0



## LOT IV.—No. 4.

Westmoor, South. B.

Part I. In the Wash.

		A.	R.	P.
William Harrison	1788	43	0	0
John Chambers	1788	40	0	0
Thomas Norburn	1795	43	0	0
Jonathan Townley, clerk	1811	70	0	0
Hannah & John Chambers	1807	40	0	0
June Tax	0 8	236	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Out of the Wash.

Jonathan Townley, clerk 1811 164 0 0

June Tax	0 8	164	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT V.—No. 4.

Westmoor, South. C.

Part I. In the Wash.

Henry James Nicholls	1819	100	0	0
Sarah Brown, and Elizabeth, the Wife of Thomas Owen	1817	104	0	0

June Tax	0 8	204	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Out of the Wash.

William Brown 1817 196 0 0

June Tax	0 8	196	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT VI.—No. 7.

Westmoor, South. D.

Part I. In the Wash.

Richard Clay	1806	54	0	0
Abraham Bodger	1810	30	0	0
Edward Richards Adam	1817	29	0	0
Thomas Spooner	1815	57	0	0
Isaac Wright	1817	8	0	0
John Vipian	1827	52	0	0

June Tax	0 8	230	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Out of the Wash.

William Asplin 1794 70 0 0  
Edward Richards Adam 1817 100 0 0

June Tax	0 8	170	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT VII.—No. 4.

Westmoor, South. E.

Part I. In the Wash.

William Cutlack	1822	15	2	0
John Cutlack	1827	46	2	0
William Denston	1815	98	0	0
Matthew Failes	1811	12	0	0
Robert Rayner	1816	30	2	0
Harry Spencer Waddington	1820	59	2	0

June Tax	0 8	262	0	0
November	0 6			

## Part II. Out of the Wash.

A. R. P.

Wm. Cox and James Cox	1818	30	0	0
Edward Richards Adam	1817	108	0	0
June Tax	0 8	138	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT IX.—No. 5.

Westmoor, South. F.

Edward Richards Adam 1817 200 0 0

June Tax	0 8	200	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XI.—No. 22.

Westmoor, North of Bedford River. A.

The next Piece to Welney.

Robert Beart, jun.	1802	25	0	0
John Gotobed	1795	25	0	0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XX.—No. 2.

Westmoor, North. B.

The 2d Piece from Welney.

William Lee 1796 50 0 0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT VI.—No. 20.

Westmoor, North. C.

The 3d Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne 1808 50 0 0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT I.—No. 23.

Westmoor, North. D.

The 4th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne 1813 2 0 0

Ditto, Tax released to Thomas Scott		8	0	0
John Gotobed	1810	40	0	0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT IV.—No. 19.

Westmoor, North. E.

The 5th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne 1808 50 0 0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XII.—No. 18.

Westmoor, North. F.

The 6th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne 1822 50 0 0

June Tax	1 0	50	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT V.—No. 22.

Westmoor, North. G.

The 7th Piece from Welney.

	A.	R.	P.
William Henry Fel- lowes	1804	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT X.—No. 30.

Westmoor, North. H.

The 8th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne	1808	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XIX.—No. 16.

Westmoor, North. I.

The 9th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne	1813	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT VII.—No. 19.

Westmoor, North. K.

The 10th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne	1805	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XV.—No. 22.

Westmoor, North. L.

The 11th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne	1805	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT II.—No. 16.

Westmoor, North. M.

The 12th Piece from Welney.

Henry Gascoigne	1805	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT III.—No. 21.

Westmoor, North. N.

The 13th Piece from Welney.

Robert Vipan	1813	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT VIII.—No. 21.

Westmoor, North. O.

The 14th Piece from Welney.

Robt. Tombleson Berry	1821	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XVIII.—No. 21.

Westmoor, North. P.

The 15th Piece from Welney.

	A.	R.	P.
John Cross	1783	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XIII.—No. 20.

Westmoor, North. Q.

The 16th Piece from Welney.

John Gotobed	1814	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XVI.—No. 17.

Westmoor, North. R.

The 17th Piece from Welney.

John Clipson	1771	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XIV.—No. 19.

Westmoor, North. S.

The 18th Piece from Welney.

William Whitting	1828	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT IX.—No. 22.

Westmoor, North. T.

The 19th Piece from Welney.

William Denston	1815	50	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT XVII.—No. 23.

Westmoor, North. V.

The 20th Piece from Welney.

Thomas Smith	1816	13	0 5
James Smyth	1827	15	0 35
William Curtis	1828	11	3 0
Robert Roo, Tax re- leased		10	0 0
June Tax	1 0	50	0 0
November	0 9		

LOT I.—No. 4.

Westmoor, North. A.

John Failes	1806	137	0 0
Ebenezer Foster	1824	200	0 0
George Mickelfield Le- fever	1826	53	0 0
Ditto, Tax released		10	0 0
June Tax	1 0	400	0 0
November	0 9		

## LOT II.—No. 3.

Westmoor, North. B.

		A.	R.	P.
William Seward	1811	200	0	0
Thomas Pettit, and Hannah, his wife	1811	200	0	0
June Tax	1	0	400	0
November	0	9		

## LOT III.—No. 5.

Westmoor, North. C.

John Weldon	1811	200	0	0
June Tax	1	0	200	0
November	0	9		

## LOT XIII.—No. 3.

Hale Fen, near Coveney.

Robert Chambers	1795	21	3	0
Richard Macormack	1805	48	0	0
John Thompson, and Maria his wife, and Rosolinda Foss	1824	110	1	0
June Tax	1	0	180	0
November	0	9		

## LOT XVIII.—No. 12.

Ashwell Moor, by Coveney, the South-west Part.

William Waudby	1816	93	0	0
Elijah Chambers	1795	74	0	0
George Cropley	1807	11	0	0
Henry Lawrence	1821	49	0	0
John Medbury	1774	13	2	0
Clement Hitch	1774	17	0	0
Charles Cross	1791	13	2	0
June Tax	1	0	271	0
November	0	9		

## LOT XIX.—No. 10.

Ashwell Moor, next to Downham West Fen.

John Haylock	1788	39	2	0
Henry Lawrence	1747	55	2	0
William Custance	1813	47	0	0
Mary Wayman	1818	10	0	0
June Tax	1	0	152	0
November	0	9		

## LOT I.—No. 5.

Coveney Severals. A.

Part I. Formerly Davies and Whinne's.

John Long	1819	6	3	34
June Tax	1	0	6	3
November	0	9		

Part II. Formerly Smith's.

John Long	1819	2	3	36
June Tax	1	0	2	3
November	0	9		

Part III. Formerly Thomas Watson's.

Richard Clay	1817	A. R. P.
June Tax	1	0
November	0	9

Part IV. Formerly John Watson's.

Richard Clay	1817	2	3	34
June Tax	1	0	2	3
November	0	9		

Part V. Formerly Pope's.

Hannah Chambers	1789	10	2	14
June Tax	1	0	10	2
November	0	9		

Part VI. Formerly Linwood's.

Augier Peacock	1752	18	0	13
June Tax	1	0	18	0
November	0	9		

Part VII. Formerly Gooday's.

Richard Clay	1817	17	3	14
June Tax	1	0	17	3
November	0	9		

Part VIII. Formerly Smith's.

John Macer	1810	6	1	33
June Tax	1	0	6	1
November	0	9		

Part IX. Part of 9 Acres, formerly Winter's

Richard Clay	1817	3	1	14
June Tax	1	0	3	1
November	0	9		

## LOT II.—No. 4.

Coveney Severals. B.

Part I. Part of 9 Acres, formerly Winter's.

Richard Clay	1817	5	1	34
June Tax	1	0	5	1
November	0	9		

Part II. Formerly Matthew's.

Richard Clay	1817	8	3	14
June Tax	1	0	8	3
November	0	9		

Part III. Formerly March's.

Richard Clay	1817	18	0	29
June Tax	1	0	18	0
November	0	9		

Part IV. Formerly Sharp's and Rider's.

Richard Clay	1817	17	2	34
June Tax	1	0	17	2
November	0	9		



Part V. Formerly Whione's, &c.

		A.	R.	P.
Richard Clay	1822	9	0	0
William Custance	1812	8	0	10
Robert Beville	1822	1	0	0

	s.	d.	
June Tax	1	0	18 0 10
November	0	9	

Part VI. Part of 16a. 1r. 30p. Formerly Andrews'.

John Moulson	1819	4	2	20	
June Tax	1	0	4	2	20
November	0	9			

LOT IX.—No. 7.

Coveney Severals. C.

Part I. Part of 16a. 1r. 30p. Formerly Andrew's.

John Moulson	1817	11	3	10	
June Tax	1	0	11	3	10
November	0	9			

Part II. Formerly Matthew's.

John Thompson and Maria his Wife, and Rosolinda Foss	1824	14	0	0
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Part III. Formerly Cocke's, and others.  
John and Joseph  
Macer

John and Joseph Macer	1827	38	0	0	
June Tax	1	0	38	0	0
November	0	9			

Part IV. New Dams.

John and Joseph Macer	1827	3	2	15
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Part V. Part of 30a. 0r. 30p. Hall Fen.  
John Thompson and  
Maria his Wife, and  
Rosolinda Foss

John Thompson and Maria his Wife, and Rosolinda Foss	1824	7	2	15	
Jane Tax	1	0	7	2	15
November	0	9			

LOT XI.—No. 7.

Coveney Severals. D.

Part I. Part of 30a. 3r. 30p. Hall Fen.

William Custance	1812	9	1	15
Ditto, Tax released to George Clay's heirs		10	0	0
Thomas Nix	1810	4	0	0
Tax released to himself		4	0	0

June Tax	1	0	23	1	15
November	0	9			

Part II. The Pingles.

Richard Clay	1817	13	1	20	
June Tax	1	0	13	1	20
November	0	9			

Part III. Blockmoor's, formerly Watson's  
and others.

		A.	R.	P.
John Martin	1769	0	2	0
Hannah Chambers	1807	0	1	0

	s.	d.	
June Tax	1	0	0 3 0
November	0	9	

Part IV. Blockmoor's, formerly White-  
cake's.

Hannah Chambers	1807	0	3	34
June Tax	1	0	0	3 34
November	0	9		

Part V. Blockmoor's, formerly Gave-  
stock's.

Hannah Chambers	1807	0	3	30
June Tax	1	0	0	3 30
November	0	9		

Part VI. Blockmoor's formerly Allen's.

John Macer	1793	0	3	35	
June Tax	1	0	0	3	35
November	0	9			

Part VII. Blockmoor's, formerly Kaye's  
and others.

Richard Clay	1825	2	1	36
June Tax	1	0	2	1 36
November	0	9		

Part VIII. Blockmoor's, formerly Biddle  
and Winter's.

John Martin	1769	6	3	0	
June Tax	1	0	6	3	0
November	0	9			

Part IX. Blockmoor's, formerly Barber's.

June Tax	1 0	3 3 10
November	0 9	

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art X. Blockmoor's, formerly Gunton.

Part X. Blockmoor's, formerly Gunton,  
and others.

William Nix	1765	2	2	20	
June Tax	1	0	2	2	20
November	0	9			

Number 29.

Byall Fen, next to Manca, part of the 3000  
Acres overplus.

Part I. The Northern part next Manca.

William Barnes	1812	244	2	0
William Hopkinson	1827	244	2	0
June Tax	1	4	489	0 0

Part II. The Southern part, North of the  
40 feet River.

William Barnes	1812	51	0	0	
John Richardson, and Fryer Richardson	1818	292	0	0	
June Tax	1	4	343	0	0
November	1	0			



## Part III. The Southern part, South of the 40 feet River.

		A.	R.	P.
John Ross	1807	76	2	0
William Seward	1807	76	2	0
Abraham Lepla	1825	15	0	0
June Tax	s. d.	168	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT VIII.—No. 4.

## Byall Fen. A.

## Part I. North of the 40 feet River.

John Richardson, and Fryer Richardson	1818	4	0	0
June Tax	1 4	4	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part II. South of the 40 feet River.

John Ross	1807	42	0	0
William Seward	1807	54	0	0
William Freeman	1816	104	0	0
John Warth	1792	98	0	0
Henry Skeels	1827	98	0	0

June Tax	1 4	396	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT IX.—No. 6.

## Byall Fen. B.

John Vipan	1824	198	0	34
Land not ascertained		1	3	6
June Tax	1 4	200	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XI.—No. 5.

## Byall Fen. C.

Joseph Vipan	1815	400	0	0
June Tax	1 4	400	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XVI.—No. 2.

## Byall Fen, South of Bedford River, next Oxwillow Lode.

Thomas Nix	1825	100	0	0
June Tax	0 8	100	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XVII.—No. 2.

## Byall Fen, South of Bedford River, next towards Mepal.

John Fryer	1825	100	0	0
June Tax	0 8	100	0	0
November	0 6			

## LOT XVI.—No. 11.

## Manea Common, and Severals.

## Part I. Manea Dams.

John Clipson	1771	230	0	0
June Tax	1 4	230	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part II. A Several, formerly Neale's.

John Clipson	1771	A. R. P.
		10 0 0
June Tax	s. d.	
November	1 4	10 0 0
	1 0	

## Part III. Formerly Sisson's, and others.

John Failes	1806	3	2	2
June Tax	1 4	3	2	2
November	1 0			

## Part IV. Formerly Thynne's, and others.

Thomas Neale, clerk	1761	1	2	10
June Tax	1 4	1	2	10
November	1 0			

## Part V. Formerly Gallaway's.

Thomas Martin	1806	0	2	30
June Tax	1 4	0	2	30
November	1 0			

## Part VI. Formerly Jeremy Freeman's, and others.

James Lee	1775	1	0	34
June Tax	1 4	1	0	34
November	1 0			

## Part VII. Formerly Harrison's

William Whitting	1824	0	2	0
June Tax	1 4	0	2	0
November	1 0			

## Part VIII. Formerly William Freeman's.

John Clipson	1771	2	2	4
June Tax	1 4	2	2	4
November	1 0			

## LOT XI.—No. 14.

## Pyemoor, near Witchford.

John Haylock	1786	41	0	0
James Evans	1806	32	0	0
Richard Huggins	1780	44	0	0
Richard Clay	1822	34	3	0
James Lawrence and Richard Clay	1822	0	1	0

June Tax	1 4	152	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT I.—No. 14.

## Grundy Fen. A.

Thomas Granger, and Edward Tingay Gran- ger	1800	100	0	0
June Tax	1 0	100	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT III.—No. 14.

## Grundy Fen. B.

William Sayers Read	1786	100	0	0
June Tax	1 0	100	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT IV.—No. 10.

Grundy Fen. C.			
Elizabeth Papworth	1822	<i>A.</i>	<i>R. P.</i>
Ditto, Tax released		116	0 0
		10	0 0
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i>	126	0 0
November	1 0		
	0 9		

LOT V.—No. 14.

Grundy Fen. D.			
William Camps	1799	40	0 0
William Camps	1827	10	0 0
Rebecca Camps	1827	10	0 0
John Camps	1827	11	0 0
Read Tansley Camps	1827	29	0 0
June Tax	1 4	100	0 0
November	1 0		

LOT V.—No. 7.

Widden Common and Severals in Witcham.

Part I. Widden Common.

Richard Macormick	1800	10	0 0
June Tax	1 8	10	0 0
November	1 3		

Part II. Widden Several.

John Owen	1805	4	0 0
June Tax	1 8	4	0 0
November	1 3		

LOT XIV.—No. 6.

Witcham Severals.

Part I. Cawcroft.

John Owen	1803	25	2 0
June Tax	1 8	25	2 0
November	1 3		

Part II. Meadland's, formerly Peacock's, and others.

John Owen	1823	3	1 0
June Tax	1 8	3	1 0
November	1 3		

Part III. Formerly belonging to divers persons.

William Bell	1800	4	3 10
Fryer Richardson, jun. 1820		8	0 0
June Tax	1 8	12	3 10
November	1 3		

Part IV. Formerly belonging to divers persons.

William Bell	1800	7	1 30
June Tax	1 8	7	1 30
November	1 3		

Part V. Formerly Merrell's and others.

William Bell	1800	7	0 0
June Tax	1 8	7	0 0
November	1 3		

LOT VIII.—No. 5.

Mepal Common.

William Palmer	1788	<i>A.</i>	<i>R. P.</i>
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i>	53	0 0
November	1 4		
	1 0		

LOT IX.—No. 3.

Widden Severals, in Mepal.

Part I. Formerly Brown's and others.

Benjamin Vipan	1812	2	2 32
June Tax	1 4	2	2 32
November	1 0		

Part II. Formerly Smith's and others.

John Long	1812	4	0 36
June Tax	1 4	4	0 36
November	1 0		

Part III. Formerly Whiting and Whinne's.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	1	0 12
June Tax	1 4	1	0 12
November	1 0		

LOT XI.—No. 6.

Mepal Several of Mrs. Carter's, by Furry Fen.

John Maser	1812	8	2 0
William Pitchford	1819	9	2 0
June Tax	1 4	18	0 0
November	1 0		

LOT VI.—No. 3.

Mepal Severals. A.

Part I. Formerly Carter and Wigmore's.

William Palmer	1788	26	2 30
June Tax	1 4	26	2 30
November	1 0		

Part II. Formerly Phipps and Aspland's.

Amos Poulton	1787	2	2 6
June Tax	1 4	2	2 6
November	1 0		

Part III. Formerly Jederal's.

William Palmer	1788	6	2 0
June Tax	1 4	6	2 0
November	1 0		

Part IV. Fur Fen.

George Waddington, clerk	1828	12	3 4
June Tax	1 4	12	3 4
November	1 0		



## Part V. Formerly Whinnes and Wigmore's.

		<i>A. R. P.</i>
Edward Rose	1791	3 2 30
Amos Poulter	1787	8 0 7
Land not ascertained		4 0 8
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 4	15 3 5
November	1 0	

## Part VI. Formerly Whinne's.

William Jellings	1811	1 2 0
June Tax	1 4	1 2 0
November	1 0	

## Part VII. Part of 11a. 3r. 10p. Formerly Aspland's and others.

Edward Martin	1756	2 3 6
William Jellings	1811	4 1 29
June Tax	1 4	7 0 35
November	1 0	

## LOT VII.—No. 5.

## Mepal Severals. B.

## Part I. Part of 11a. 3r. 10p. Formerly Aspland's and others.

Edward Martin	1756	4 2 15
June Tax	1 4	4 2 15
November	1 0	

## Part II. Formerly Aspland and Brown's.

William Jellings	1819	5 3 0
June Tax	1 4	5 3 0
November	1 0	

## Part III. Formerly taken out of several Grounds.

Edward Martin, and		
Ann his Wife	1756	23 3 22
John Owen	1805	14 0 0
William Pitchford	1813	10 0 12
William Jellings	1821	13 0 0
June Tax	1 4	60 3 34
November	1 0	

## Part IV. Near Fur Fen.

John Maser	1812	3 2 31
June Tax	1 4	3 2 31
November	1 0	

## LOT VIII.—No. 6.

## Severals of Mepal. C.

## Part I. Formerly Wabie, Aspland, and Carter's.

William Pitchford	1813	2 1 16
June Tax	1 4	2 1 16
November	1 0	

## Part II. Formerly Whinne's.

William Pitchford	1819	6 3 18
June Tax	1 4	6 3 18
November	1 0	

## Part III. Formerly Whinne and Adams's.

		<i>A. R. P.</i>
Amos Poulter	1787	6 0 18
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 4	6 0 18
November	1 0	

## Part IV. Formerly Cooper's.

Amos Poulter	1787	6 2 36
June Tax	1 4	6 2 36
November	1 0	

## LOT XI.—No. 2.

Middlemoor, in Sutton.	In the Wash.	
Stephen Feary, jun.	1811	37 0 0
June Tax	1 8	37 0 0
November	1 3	

## LOT I.—No. 3.

## Sutton Meadlands, next to Middlemoor.

Stephen Feary	1773	21 0 0
Stephen Feary, jun.	1811	110 0 0
June Tax	2 0	131 0 0
November	1 6	

## LOT VI.—No. 6.

## Sutton Meadlands, next unto the Grounds mentioned in Lot I. No. 3.

Stephen Feary	1800	25 0 0
June Tax	2 0	25 0 0
November	1 6	

## LOT XIX.—No. 3.

## Sutton Meadlands, next towards West Fen.

Stephen Feary	1773	18 0 0
June Tax	2 0	18 0 0
November	1 6	

## LOT XI.—No. 3.

## Cocksneats, and Mr. Jetherell's Hamlets, in Sutton.

Part I. Formerly the Dean and Chapter's.		
John Eden Leeds	1805	1 2 20
June Tax	1 8	1 2 20
November	1 3	

## Part II. Formerly Drury's.

John Eden Leeds	1805	1 2 10
June Tax	1 8	1 2 10
November	1 3	

## Part III. Formerly Carter's.

Ellington Wright,		
Tax released to himself 1793		0 3 20
June Tax	1 8	0 3 20
November	1 3	

Part IV. Formerly Taylor's.

		A.	R.	P.
John Brown, jun.	1807	0	2	30
	s. d.			
June Tax	1 8	0	2	30
November	1 3			

Part V. Jetherall's Hamlets.

Joseph Vipan	1785	1	1	0
June Tax	1 8	1	1	0
November	1 3			

LOT XI.—No. 4.

Little Holwood, and West Fen, next to Sutton Meadlands. A.

Part I. Little Holwood.

William Charter	1811	16	1	3
Joseph Vipan	1815	27	0	12
June Tax	1 8	43	1	15
November	1 3			

Part II. West Fen.

Thomas Rogers	1814	13	2	2
June Tax	1 8	13	2	2
November	1 3			

Part III. West Fen.

Thomas Rogers	1814	14	1	7
June Tax	1 8	14	1	7
November	1 3			

Part IV. West Fen.

John Robinson	1768	1	3	23
June Tax	1 8	1	3	23
November	1 3			

Part V. West Fen.

John Upshire	1740	2	3	33
June Tax	1 8	2	3	33
November	1 3			

LOT XII.—No. 3.

Part of Sutton West Fen. B.

John Upshire	1740	5	1	0
Joseph Upshire	1805	5	1	0
June Tax	1 8	10	2	0
November	1 3			

LOT XV.—No. 3.

Sutton West Fen. C.

Part I.

Stephen Feary	1784	22	0	0
Joseph Vipan	1796	20	2	21
Ann, the wife of ditto	1822	18	0	0
John Vipan	1822	10	0	0
June Tax	1 8	70	2	21
November	1 3			

Part II. Part of 91a. 3r. 29p.

		A.	R.	P.
Joseph Vipan	1785	46	1	19
June Tax	1 8	46	1	19
November	1 3			

LOT XVI.—No. 3.

Sutton West Fen. D.

William Wright	1822	20	0	0
June Tax	1 8	20	0	0
November	1 3			

LOT XVIII.—No. 4.

Sutton West Fen. E.

Part I. Part of 91a. 3r. 29p.

Henry Brown	1808	25	2	10
June Tax	1 8	25	2	10
November	1 3			

Part II. At the west end of the 91a. 3r. 29p.

Henry Brown	1808	5	3	13
June Tax	1 8	3	3	13
November	1 3			

Part III. Adjoining the 91a. 3r. 29p.

Henry Brown	1808	1	3	31
June Tax	1 8	1	3	31
November	1 3			

Part IV. Next Hamond's Eau.

Henry Brown	1808	10	3	11
June Tax	1 8	10	3	11
November	1 3			

Part V. Next Hammond's Eau.

Francis Knight	1823	28	2	5
June Tax	1 8	28	2	5
November	1 3			

Part VI. Formerly Merrill's.

Francis Knight	1823	1	3	10
June Tax	1 8	1	3	10
November	1 3			

Part VI. Part of 175 Acres, Sutton Meadlands, and lying with the 131 Acres, Lot I.—No. 3.

Stephen Feary, jun.	1811	1	0	0
June Tax	1 8	1	0	0
November	1 3			

LOT III.—No. 4.

Sutton, the remainder of North Fen, and the Middle, next towards Chatteris Fens, and 6a. 0r. 25p. in West Fen adjoining.

Part I. West Fen.

George Thomson		6	0	26
June Tax	1 4	6	0	26
November	1 0			



## Part II. The Middle.

		<i>A. R. P.</i>
		12 3 4
George Thomson		
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 4	12 3 4
November	1 0	

## Part III. The Middle.

John Cawthorn	1812	10 1 7
June Tax	1 4	10 1 7
November	1 0	

## Part IV. North Fen.

George Thomson		2 3 3
June Tax	1 4	2 3 3
November	1 0	

## LOT II.—No 2.

Sutton, in North Fen.

## Part I. Adjoining Hammond's Eau.

John Doby	1694	16 2 0
Freeman Cawthorn	1767	8 2 6

June Tax	1 8	25 0 6
November	1 3	

## Part II. Adjoining Hammond's Eau.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	15 0 22
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June Tax	1 8	15 0 22
November	1 3	

## Part III. Adjoining Hammond's Eau.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	9 1 13
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June Tax	1 8	9 1 13
November	1 3	

## Part IV. Abutting on Long North Fen Drove.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	4 1 2
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June Tax	1 8	4 1 2
November	1 3	

## Part V. Adjoining the 20-feet Drain.

Robert Tubbs	1770	5 0 0
Francis Knight	1823	1 3 37
Land not ascertained		6 0 15

June Tax	1 8	13 0 12
November	1 3	

## Part VI. Adjoining Mepal Block Fen.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	12 1 23
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June Tax	1 8	12 1 23
November	1 3	

## Part VII. Adjoining Mepal Block Fen.

James Newman	1821	11 0 16
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June Tax	1 8	11 0 16
November	1 3	

## Part VIII. Adjoining Chatteris Fen.

		<i>A. R. P.</i>
		14 3 13
Thomas Camps	1682	
June Tax	<i>s. d.</i> 1 8	14 3 13
November	1 3	

## Part IX. Called Hyde's Lockspits.

John Biddle	1786	13 0 0
Francis Knight	1823	27 3 2
Josiah Wright	1826	13 0 0

June Tax	1 8	53 3 2
November	1 3	

## Part X. Near Chatteris Parish.

Philip Cawthorn	1808	26 0 0
John Bluff	1787	2 1 3
John Bluff, Tax released		8 0 0

June Tax	1 8	36 1 3
November	1 3	

## Part XI. In Blaby's Drove.

Ann Matthews	1785.	13 0 25
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June Tax	1 8	13 0 25
November	1 3	

## Part XII. Abutting on Short North Fen Drove.

Freeman Cawthorn	1767	34 0 7
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Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1819	29 2 23
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June Tax	1 8	63 2 30
November	1 3	

## LOT V.—No. 3.

Sutton, South of Bedford River, next to the Fens of Haddenham and Wentworth.

## Part I. Adjoining South Meadlands.

John Upshire	1805	19 3 0
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June Tax	1 8	19 3 0
November	1 3	

## Part II. Abutting on Haddenham.

John Upshire	1805	10 2 28
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June Tax	1 8	10 2 28
November	1 3	

## Part III. Abutting on Haddenham.

John Upshire	1805	3 2 0
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June Tax	1 8	3 2 0
November	1 3	

## Part IV. Ryman Moor.

John Upshire	1805	4 3 22
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June Tax	1 8	4 3 22
November	1 3	

Part V. adjoining to land called the Besons.

		A.	R.	P.
William Wiseman	1742	6	0	0
William Wright	1799	20	2	28
Edward Bedingham	1805	4	3	13
William Oates	1812	4	3	11
Sarah Edwards	1815	3	0	0
Alexander Simson	1821	11	3	0
John Upshire	1805	10	3	38
Ditto, Tax released		10	0	0
June Tax	1 8	72	0	10
November	1 3			

Part VI. Next Haddenham Small Fen.

John Upshire	1805	9	2	20
June Tax	1 8	9	2	20
November	1 3			

LOT XII.—No. 2.

Sutton Grounds, South of Bedford River, lying next to the Grounds of Sutton, in the 5th Lot.

Part I. Out of the Wash, near Sutton Gravel.

Joseph Vipan			3	2	17
June Tax	1	8	3	2	17
November	1	3			

Part II. Out of the Wash. Ryman Moor.

Ann Matthews	1785	16	0	0
Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1822	16	0	10
June Tax	1 8	32	0	10
November	1 3			

Part III. Out of the Wash. South Fen.

Joseph Vipan	1796	7	0	36
June Tax	1 8	7	0	36
November	1 3			

Part IV. Out of the Wash. Manyman's Doles.

John Vipan	1824	3	0	38
June Tax	1 8	3	0	38
November	1 3			

Part V. Out of the Wash. Manyman's Doles.

Joseph Vipan	1800	2	1	26
June Tax	1 8	2	1	26
November	1 3			

Part VI. Out of the Wash. Adjoining the Chain Causeway.

Joseph Vipan		1	2	36
June Tax	1	8	1	2
November	1	3	1	2

Part VII. Out of the Wash. Ditches.

Joseph Vipan	1800	1	2	31
June Tax	1 8	1	2	31
November	1 3			

Part VIII. Out of the Wash. Ventria's.

Joseph Vipan	1799	5	2	14
June Tax	1 8	5	2	14
November	1 3			

Part IX. Out of the Wash. Bury Lot.

Joseph Vipan	1800	15	3	11
June Tax	1 8	15	3	11
November	1 3			

Part X. In the Wash. Adjoining the Gault Causeway.

Joseph Vipan	1785	6	0	20
June Tax	1 8	6	0	20
November	1 3			

Part XI. In the Wash. In West Fen.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1823	7	3	24
June Tax	1 8	7	3	24
November	1 3			

Part XII. In the Wash. In West Fen.

Joseph Vipan	1820	3	0	26
June Tax	1 8	3	0	26
November	1 3			

Part XIII. In the Wash. In West Fen.

Ann, the Wife of Joseph Vipan	1822	5	1	15
June Tax	1 8	5	1	15
November	1 3			

Part XIV. In the Wash. Abutting on North Meadlands.

Joseph Vipan	1785	2	0	20
June Tax	1 8	2	0	20
November	1 3			

Part XV. In the Wash. Near South Meadlands.

Joseph Vipan	1785	9	0	6
Joseph Upshire	1805	2	1	20
June Tax	1 8	11	1	26
November	1 3			

LOT VIII.—No. 3.

Sutton, South of Bedford River.

Part I. Out of the Wash. North of the road to the Gault.

John Morris	1822	3	2	22
June Tax	1 8	3	2	22
November	1 3			

Part II. Out of the Wash. Between  
Ditches.

Joseph Vipan	1799	A. R. P.	5 0 38
	s. d.		
June Tax	1 8		5 0 38
November	1 3		

Part III. In the Wash. North of the Gault  
Causeway.

John Phipps	1790	0 3 25
Ditto, Tax released by himself		1 0 0
William Jellings	1808	13 2 15
John Bulman	1796	7 2 20
June Tax	1 8	23 0 20
November	1 3	

## LOT X.—No. 19.

## Normoor, in Chatteris, next to Honey. A.

Eliza, the wife of Robert Stevens, and Maria, the wife of John William Kitchen	1811	384 0 0
Ditto, Tax released		16 0 0
June Tax	1 4	400 0 0
November	1 0	

## LOT XI.—No. 15.

## Normoor, in Chatteris. B.

John Fryer, Daniel Fryer, and Thomas Fryer	1826	400 0 0
June Tax	1 4	400 0 0
November	1 0	

## LOT XVI.—No. 12.

## Normoor, in Chatteris. C.

Richard Ruston	1807	15 0 0
Edward Ruston	1807	48 2 20
Robert Ruston	1807	37 1 0
William Tabor	1814	86 0 0
Thomas Smith	1807	14 0 0
John Brammer Smith	1808	8 3 20
Elizabeth Thimbleby	1807	7 2 0
James Robinson	1807	27 2 20
Ditto, Tax released		1 1 5
John Marchant	1807	8 2 20
William Curtis	1821	43 2 0
Thomas Young	1807	23 2 0
William Triplow	1807	8 2 20
John Ross	1807	10 0 0
William Smith	1807	13 0 0
Ditto, Tax released		6 0 0
Thomas Bays	1812	10 1 0
James Burgess	1821	4 3 20
Edward Stratton	1809	19 1 0
Edward Ruston, Robert Ruston, William Seward, Thomas Young, and William Tabor	1810	6 2 0
Thomas Lemon, Tax released		8 2 35
June Tax	1 4	400 0 0
November	1 0	

## LOT XV.—No. 17.

## Normoor, in Chatteris. D.

## Part I. North of the 40 Feet.

		A.	R.	P.
William Smith	1780	0	1	0
Ditto, Tax released		6	0	0
Thomas Lamb	1786	24	2	0
Ditto, Tax released		8	0	0
William Richardson	1795	27	1	0
Ditto, Tax released		6	0	0
James Robinson, jun.	1802	2	3	0
Ditto, Tax released		3	0	0
James Robinson	1807	6	2	0
William Curtis	1818	22	2	4
William Valentine	1821	6	1	0
Thomas Smith	1823	4	3	36
John Cave	1825	18	3	0
Thomas Young	1825	17	2	0
Ditto, Tax released		2	0	0
Elizabeth Boyce	1801	25	0	0
Thomas Paine, and William Paine	1825	11	3	0
William Triplow, Tax released		13	0	0
William Dunn Gardner, Tax released		4	0	0
	s. d.			
June Tax	1 4	210	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part II. South of the 40 Feet.

Thomas Warth	1754	15 2 0
John Bays, and Jas. Fountain	1790	7 2 0
John Read	1791	1 1 30
Ditto, Tax released		7 0 10
Thomas Bays	1816	14 2 10
Ditto, Tax released		9 0 30
Edward Hodson, and John Bays	1793	6 1 0
Ditto, Tax released		6 0 0
Joseph Bays	1798	26 2 0
Ditto, Tax released		6 0 0
John Cave	1819	28 0 0
William Bassett	1807	2 3 14
Richard Ruston	1811	2 2 0
Ditto, Tax released		2 2 0
Potto Brown, and Mary his wife	1823	17 3 6
James Smith, and Sarah his wife	1825	14 0 0
Thomas Wright	1825	6 1 17
Joseph Wright	1825	6 1 17
Samuel Wells	1825	7 0 26
William Kendall, Tax released		3 2 0
Thomas Lemon, Tax released		3 0 0
William Lyon, Tax released		3 0 0
John Stocks, Tax released		3 0 0
June Tax	1 4	200 0 0
November	1 0	

**LOT VI.—No. 14.**

Curf and Gore, in Chatteris. A.  
Next towards Chatteris.

	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
George Waddington, (clerk)	1828	200	0 0
June Tax	1	4	200 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT VII.—No. 12.**

Curf and Gore, in Chatteris. B.  
Next Doddington.

John Sutton	1715	8	0 0
Edward Smith	1800	31	0 0
John Mash	1807	11	0 0
Edward Ruston	1822	14	0 0
Potto Brown, and Mary his wife	1823	104	0 0
William Brooks	1827	4	0 0
George Waddington, (clerk)	1828	28	0 0
June Tax	1	4	200 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT II.—No. 10.**

Langwood Fen, in Chatteris. A.

John Fryer	1817	200	0 0
Jane, the wife of Wil- liam Dunn Gardner	1797	100	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT III.—No. 15.**

Langwood Fen, in Chatteris. B.

Henry Skeels	1827	25	0 0
William Warth	1769	35	0 0
Daniel Ilett	1826	40	0 0
Fryer Richardson	1789	50	0 0
William Lyon	1799	75	0 0
Robert Bonfield	1799	75	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT VIII.—No. 14.**

Langwood Fen, in Chatteris. C.

Joseph Saberton } Saberton }	1802	320	0 0
June Tax	1	4	320 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT IV.—No. 11.**

Wendy Fen, in Chatteris.

Henry Skeels	1827	134	0 0
Fryer Richardson, jun.	1820	100	0 0
John Lamb	1793	7	2 0
Thomas Lamb	1793	8	2 0
William Mason, and Elizabeth his wife	1824	50	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT XVIII.—No. 13.**

Rough Westmoor, in Chatteris. A.

	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
Thomas Warth	1740	28	0 0
John Warth	1792	25	0 0
Joseph Brown	1765	100	0 0
Thomas Richardson	1807	25	0 0
Thos. Richardson, jun.	1820	50	0 0
John Minet Henniker, and John Chafy, (upon trust)	1815	22	0 0
William Serjeant Den- ny, and William At- terbury, jun. (upon trust)	1823	50	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT XIX.—No. 11.**

Rough Westmoor, in Chatteris, next to  
Beazling's Fen. B.

Joseph Brown	1760	40	0 0
Edward Ilett	1777	20	0 0
Thomas Richardson	1802	24	0 0
Thos. Richardson, jun.	1820	50	0 0
Ann Waddington	1820	85	0 0
Edward Smith	1794	34	0 0
William Chafy, (D.D.)	1825	35	0 0
John Minet Henniker, and John Chafy, (upon trust)	1815	8	0 0
June Tax	1	4	296 0 0
November	1	0	

**LOT IX.—No. 2.**

Mr. Wendy's Ground, in Chatteris.

George Thomson	234	0 0
June Tax	2	0
November	1	6

**LOT V.—No. 8.**

Chatteris Severals.

William Mason	1789	5	0 0
June Tax	1	8	5 0 0
November	1	3	

**LOT XII.—No. 7.**

Chatteris Severals.

Part I. Block Fen.

Fryer Richardson, jun.	1820	44	3 0
Joseph Saberton } Saberton }	1816	44	3 0
June Tax	1	8	89 2 0
November	1	3	

Part II. Town Meadow, and other Grounds.

Robert Clarke	1825	15	3 3
Richard Ruston	1825	11	2 23
June Tax	1	8	27 1 26
November	1	3	



## Part III. Formerly Vintney and others.

		A. R. P.
William Mason	1789	80 0 7
June Tax	1 8	20 0 7
November	1 3	

## Part IV. Formerly Read's.

William Ingle	1817	1 3 32
June Tax	1 8	1 3 32
November	1 3	

## Part V. Formerly Bruce and others.

William Ingle	1817	8 0 8
William Mason	1789	10 2 2
June Tax	1 8	18 2 10
November	1 3	

## Part VI. Formerly Castle's.

William Mason	1789	9 2 10
June Tax	1 8	9 2 10
November	1 3	

## Part VII. Formerly Dring's.

William Mason	1789	7 2 10
June Tax	1 8	7 2 10
November	1 3	

## Part VIII. Formerly Rutter's.

John Warth	1814	6 2 5
June Tax	1 8	6 2 5
November	1 3	

## Part IX. Formerly Camp's.

Thomas Andrews	1821	8 3 0
June Tax	1 8	8 3 0
November	1 3	

## Part X. The Mile.

Thomas Smith	1798	4 0 16
June Tax	1 8	4 0 16
November	1 3	

## Part XI. Formerly Bate's and others.

Thomas Richardson	1807	20 0 0
Christopher Billups	1818	16 0 4
June Tax	1 8	36 0 4
November	1 3	

## LOT IV.—No. 3.

## Honey Fen, in Chatteris.

Jane, the wife of William Dunn Gardner	1797	40 0 0
June Tax	1 8	40 0 0
November	1 3	

## DODDINGTON, MARCHE, &amp;c.

## LOT I.—No. 15.

## Beezling, in Doddington.

		A. R. P.
Christopher Billups	1787	21 0 0
Isaac Low	1791	12 0 0
Thomas Richardson	1807	163 1 0
Joseph Richardson, jun.	1819	3 2 0
Thos. Richardson, jun.	1820	100 3 0
John Margetts	1810	10 0 0
John Sears	1818	17 0 0
Rutter Lewin, and Elizabeth Lewin	1826	16 2 0
June Tax	1 0	344 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT VII.—No. 14.

## Horsemoor. B. 200 acres. Whereof exchanged 82 acres, for 82 acres in Beezling.

## Part I. Beezling Fen.

John Warth	1717	10 0 0
Thomas Richardson	1807	72 0 0
June Tax	1 0	82 0 0
November	0 9	

## Part II. Horsemoor.

John Morton	1827	118 0 0
June Tax	1 0	118 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT VI.—No. 16.

## Beezling Fen, lying next Rough Westmoor in Chatteris, exchanged.

John Fountain	1666	200 0 0
June Tax	1 0	200 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT VI.—No. 15.

## Dikeamoor, next West Water. D.

Mary Goodman	1770	72 0 0
Nathaniel Jarman Goodman	1817	84 0 0
June Tax	1 0	156 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT XIX.—No. 12.

## Dikeamoor. C.

Thomas Burgess	1815	200 0 0
June Tax	1 0	200 0 0
November	0 9	

## LOT XVII.—No. 15.

## Dikeamoor B.

William Langman		40 0 0
Bowen Thickens, clerk	1819	60 0 0
Edward Loomes	1802	100 0 0
June Tax	1 0	200 0 0
November	0 9	

LOT VII.—No. 13.

Dikeamoor. A.

		A.	R.	P.
Edward Loomes	1812	30	0	0
William Langman		79	1	20
William Pallett, and				
Ann, his wife	1811	15	2	20
Thomas Garford	1817	75	0	0
June Tax	s. d.	200	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT I.—No. 17.

Stones Fen, and Block Fen Common. A.

John Minet Lord Hen-				
niker, and John				
Chafy	1827	500	0	0
June Tax	1 4	500	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT II.—No. 12.

Stones Fen, and Block Fen Common. B.

William Lyon	1797	200	0	0
Edward Ilett, and				
Daniel Ilett	1804	200	0	0
June Tax	1 4	400	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT III.—No. 17.

Stones and Block Fen Common. C.

William Bonfield	1824	300	0	0
William Goulding	1790	46	0	0
Thomas Cole	1818	54	0	0
June Tax	1 4	400	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT XII.—No. 15.

Stones and Block Fen Common. D.

Thomas Cole	1827	144	1	19
Thomas Orton, and				
William Orton	1819	255	2	21
June Tax	1 4	400	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT XVIII.—No. 14.

Horsemoor. C.

Susannah Matthews	1813	51	1	5
Thomas Ewen	1803	148	2	35
June Tax	1 0	200	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT X.—No. 21.

Horsemoor. D.

Thomas Matthews, Ed-				
ward Matthews, and				
Ann the Wife of				
John Pope	1809	143	2	0
Susannah Matthews	1813	143	2	0
June Tax	1 0	287	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT XVII.—No. 14.

Wiche and Stow Fen, in March.

		A.	R.	P.
Thomas Cole	1802	48	2	0
Joshua Browne	1802	25	0	0
Thomas Cockett	1817	26	2	0
William Hawyes				
Wray	1825	60	0	0
Ann Warth	1783	15	0	0
Ambrose Ground	1797	23	0	0
June Tax	s. d.	200	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XVI.—No. 13.

Great Binnimoor and Gray's Fen in Dod-

ington, next to Gray's Fen.

Ralph Aveling	1801	191	0	0
John Gray	1826	100	0	0
The Trustees of Wis-				
bech Chapel of Ease	1827	3	0	0
June Tax	0 8	294	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XVIII.—No. 17.

Great Binnimoor and Gray's Fen, next to-

wards the River Nene.

John Johnson	1797	100	0	0
David Cowherd	1774	100	0	0
June Tax	0 8	200	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT I.—No. 16.

Creek Fen in Doddington, A. Next towards

March.

Nathan Gray	1824	130	0	0
William Peckover (up-				
on trust)	1824	70	0	0
June Tax	1 0	200	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT II.—No. 11.

Creek Fen, in Doddington. B.

Nathan Gray	1824	160	0	0
William Peckover (up-				
on trust)	1824	100	0	0
June Tax	1 0	260	0	0
November	0 9			

LOT III.—No. 16.

Whitemoor, in Doddington. A. The parcel

of 300 acres diked out.

John Ward	1789	50	0	0
Nathaniel Goodman	1800	150	0	0
Henry Wade	1707	100	0	0
June Tax	1 4	300	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT IV.—No. 12.

Whitemoor, in Doddington. B. Next to the 300 acres diked out.

		A.	R.	P.
James Fountain	1793	40	2	0
George Lamb	1801	142	2	0
Nathaniel Goodman	1809	33	0	0
John Lovel	1809	20	2	0
Ann, Wife of Joseph Watts	1821	55	2	0
John Meadows and Susannah his Wife	1822	38	3	0
Edmund Barley	1826	69	1	0
June Tax	1	4	400	0 0
November	1	0		

## LOT V.—No. 17.

Whitemoor. C. Next unto Wisbech Fen.

Wisbech and March, Turnpike Trustees		5	0	0
William Linney	1790	115	0	0
William Watson	1820	180	0	0
June Tax	1	8	300	0 0
November	1	3		

## LOT XI.—No. 16.

The Middle, in Doddington.

Simon Goodman	1824	200	0	0
June Tax	1	4	200	0 0
November	1	0		

## LOT XIV.—No. 13.

Burroughmoor, in March.

John Kirkby	1809	500	0	0
June Tax	1	4	500	0 0
November	1	0		

## LOT V.—No. 16.

West Fen, and West Fen Close. A.

James Jones	1817	483	0	0
June Tax	1	0	483	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT VIII. No. 15.

West Fen, and West Fen Close. B.

John Kirkby	1809	391	0	0
Simon Smith	1767	27	0	0
John Smith	1776	107	0	0
June Tax	1	0	525	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT IX.—No. 16.

West Fen and West Fen Close. C.

Hardy Johnson	1785	560	0	0
June Tax	1	0	500	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT XII. No 14.

West Fen and West Fen Close. D.

		A.	R.	P.
James Boyce	1753	101	2	10
Thomasine Henery	1824	212	1	30
John Woodward and Joseph Jackson	1825	107	0	0
Elizabeth Boyce	1801	79	0	0
June Tax	1	0	500	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT XIII.—No. 14.

West Fen and West Fen Close. E.

Nathan Gray	1824	8	2	0
Mary Wakelin, and John Searle	1805	225	2	0
Mary Wakelin, and Nathan Gray	1824	140	0	0
Mary Wakelin, and William Ashworth	1817	126	0	0
June Tax	1	0	500	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT XVII.—No. 16.

Stonea Fen Severals. D.

Thomas Cole	1794	90	0	0
George Fisher	1819	103	0	0
Thomas Lewin	1804	57	0	0
Thomas Bonfield	1824	50	0	0
June Tax	1	0	300	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT XIV. No. 15.

Stonea Fen Severals. A.

Thomas Bonfield	1824	300	0	0
June Tax	1	0	300	0 0
November	0	9		

## LOT XV.—No. 18.

Stonea Fen Severals. B.

William Thorpe	1820	300	0	0
June Tax	1	4	300	0 0
November	1	0		

## LOT XVI. No. 14.

Stonea Fen Severals. C.

John Clipson	1771	225	0	0
Abraham Tagg	1820	140	0	0
William Thorpe	1820	60	0	0
June Tax	1	4	425	0 0
November	1	0		

## LOT XIV.—No. 14.

Dr. Sam's Horsemoor, embanked.

Thomas Aveling	1817	118	1	0
Henry Skeels	1822	106	3	0
June Tax	1	0	225	0 0
November	0	9		

LOT I.—No. 10.

Great Bradneymoor, a Several of Dod-  
dington.

	A.	R.	P.
Zachariah Graham	1826	162	2 0
June Tax	1	4	162 2 0
November	1	0	

LOT XVII.—No. 20.

White Fen, a Several of Benwick.

Joseph Shepperson	1810	119	1 0
June Tax	1	0	119 1 0
November	0	9	

LOT XVII.—No. 21.

Brown's Fen, by Benwick, a Several of  
Dr. Sams.

Thomas Burgess	1815	35	0 20
John Bates	1793	15	0 0
June Tax	1	4	50 0 20
November	1	0	

LOT XVII.—No. 18.

Mr. Peyton's Severals, by Hob's Dike, in  
March.

Part I. Norwood Severals.

William Golden	1811	103	0 0
June Tax	1	4	103 0 0
November	1	0	

Part II. Norwood Severals.

John Household	1818	18	3 0
June Tax	1	4	18 3 0
November	1	0	

Part III. Norwood Severals.

Thomas Jenkinson	1689	11	1 20
June Tax	1	4	11 1 20
November	1	0	

LOT XVII.—No. 19.

Peter Williams' adjoining Severals.

Part I. Near Grandford.

Robert Bevill	1806	11	0 0
June Tax	1	4	11 0 0
November	1	0	

Part II. Near Grandford.

Robert Bevill	1806	23	2 10
June Tax	1	4	23 2 10
November	1	0	

LOT I.—No. 20.

Severals of Doddington, &c. A.

Part I. Norwood Severals.

Robert Wilson	1781	9	3 10
June Tax	1	4	9 3 10
November	1	0	

Part II. Near Plantwater.

Joseph Jackson	1821	15	0 0
June Tax	1	4	15 0 0
November	1	0	

Part III. Near Plantwater, part of 22 acres.

Edward Bigland	1748	7	2 30
June Tax	1	4	7 2 30
November	1	0	

LOT II.—No. 14.

Severals of Doddington. B.

Part I. Creek, part of 49a. 1r. 5p.

William Peckover (upon trust)	1824	16	1 5
June Tax	1	4	16 1 5
November	1	0	

Part II. Near the Chain.

Robert Hutchinson Lewin		20	0 0
June Tax	1	4	20 0 0
November	1	0	

Part III. Norwood Closes.

Charles White	1793	1	1 28
Thomas Golden	1811	1	3 20
June Tax	1	4	3 1 8
November	1	0	

Part IV. Part of 42a., near Plantwater.

Joseph Jackson	1821	27	3 34
June Tax	1	4	27 3 34
November	1	0	

LOT IV.—No. 18.

Severals of Doddington. C.

Part I. Mumford Lands.

Susannah Goodman	1809	4	0 35
June Tax	1	4	4 0 35
November	1	0	

Part II. Mumford Lands.

William Elwes	1761	3	2 5
June Tax	1	4	3 2 5
November	1	0	

Part III. Mumford Lands.

Simon Goodman	1818	2	1 13
June Tax	1	4	2 1 13
November	1	0	

Part IV. At the Chain.

Thomas Richardson & John Doncaster	1822	5	0 20
June Tax	1	4	5 0 20
November	1	0	



## Part V. Near Plantwater; part of 42 acres.

		A.	R.	P.
Joseph Jackson	1821	14	2	6
June Tax	1 4	14	2	6
November	1 0			

## Part VI. Whitemoor.

John Abbott	1758	3	0	20
June Tax	1 4	3	0	20
November	1 0			

## Part VII. Death Fen.

Edward Adams	1766	2	1	6
June Tax	1 4	2	1	6
November	1 0			

## Part VIII. Sumps.

David Cowherd	1779	6	3	15
June Tax	1 4	6	3	15
November	1 0			

## LOT VIII.—No. 19.

## Severals of Doddington, &amp;c. D.

## Part I. Redlands.

Cornelius Corthorne	1783	4	1	10
June Tax	1 4	4	1	10
November	1 0			

## Part II. Near Peas Hill.

Robert Barlow	1792	2	3	8
June Tax	1 4	2	3	8
November	1 0			

## Part III. The Otter Holt's.

Nathan Gray	1824	35	2	0
June Tax	1 4	35	2	0
November	1 0			

## LOT X.—No. 29.

## Severals of Doddington, &amp;c. E.

## Part I. Reed Fen, part of 30 acres.

Susanna Jackson, and Elizabeth Jackson	1795	26	3	24
June Tax	1 4	26	3	24
November	1 0			

Part II. Near Tilney Hern; part of  
10a. 3r. 0p.

Thomas Richardson	1794	3	3	33
June Tax	1 4	3	3	33
November	1 0			

## Part III. Near Granford.

Robert Bevell	1806	8	3	10
June Tax	1 4	8	3	10
November	1 0			

## Part IV. Wragge Fen, near Granford.

		A.	R.	P.
John Ward	1789	9	3	23
June Tax	1 4	9	3	23
November	1 0			

## Part V. Whitemoor.

John Ward	1789	12	3	23
June Tax	1 4	12	3	23
November	1 0			

## LOT XIII.—No. 19.

## Severals of Doddington, &amp;c. F.

Part I. Near Plantwater; part of 22  
acres.

Thomas Swan	1696	14	1	20
June Tax	1 4	14	1	10
November	1 0			

Part II. Near Tylney Hern; part of  
10a. 3r. 0p.

Thomas Richardson	1794	6	3	7
June Tax	1 4	6	3	7
November	1 0			

## Part III. Near Great Cross.

Nathan Gray	1824	5	2	0
June Tax	1 4	5	2	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XVI.—No. 16.

## Severals of Doddington. G.

## Part I. Near Flood's Ferry.

William Blench	1800	4	3	38
June Tax	1 4	4	3	38
November	1 0			

## Part II. Near Beezlings.

Mary Goodman	1770	4	3	10
June Tax	1 4	4	3	10
November	1 0			

## Part III. Near Benwick Moor.

Isaac Ibberson	1820	1	0	0
June Tax	1 4	1	0	0
November	1 0			

## Part IV. Near Benwick.

William Quince	1735	1	0	20
June Tax	1 4	1	0	20
November	1 0			

## LOT XVIII.—No. 20.

## Severals of Doddington. H.

## Part I. Reed Fen; part of 20 acres.

Susanna Jackson, and Elizabeth Jackson	1795	3	0	16
June Tax	1 4	3	0	16
November	1 0			

Part II. Creek; part of 49a. 1r. 5p.

A. R. P.

David Cowherd, John			
Corthorne, William			
Corthorne, Robert			
Hutchinson Lewin,			
William Matthews,			
William Elwes, and			
William Ratcliffe	1781	33	0 0
June Tax	1 4	33	0 0
November	1 0		

Part III. Granford.

Nathaniel Goodman	1809	1	0 0
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June Tax	1 4	1	0 0
November	1 0		

Part IV. Bagdole in Benwick.

John Bates	1793	2	3 34
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June Tax	1 4	2	3 34
November	1 0		

Part V. Near Manca.

Robert Whiting	1802	25	0 0
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June Tax	1 4	25	0 0
November	1 0		

WHITTLESEY.

Number 23.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

Glassmoor, by the Steads.

John German	1807	108	0 0
William Richardson	1809	93	2 31
Ditto, Tax released			
to himself		5	0 0
Joseph Jones	1816	147	0 0
Abraham Staffurth	1818	231	0 0
Samuel Staffurth, Pyott			
Staffurth, and Wil-			
liam Staffurth	1818	13	0 0
Rebecca Maltman	1824	48	1 9

June Tax	1 1	646	0 0
November	0 9½		

Number 19.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

Fleg Fen.

Lenox Lightfoot	1687	100	0 0
William Searle	1774	87	2 7
William Booth	1787	224	0 0
Thomas Johnson, Hen-			
ry Haynes, Daniel			
Ground, John Russel			
and William Ground	1816	7	3 12
Henry Haynes	1817	101	3 35
William Davie Ground	1812	363	2 13
Henry Freeman	1825	15	0 13

The Honourable Selena			
Childers, and John			
Walbanke Childers	1827	749	0 0
John Walbanke Chil-			
ders	1827	429	0 0

June Tax	1 1	2078	0 0
November	0 9½		

Number 20.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

South Pingle.

A. R. P.

The Honourable Selena			
Childers, and John			
Walbanke Childers	1827	59	0 0
June Tax	1 1	59	0 0
November	0 9½		

Number 21.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

The Middle, &c.

The Honourable Selena			
Childers, and John			
Walbanke Childers	1827	734	0 0
June Tax	1 1	734	0 0
November	0 9½		

Number 22.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

Eastrea Common.

The Honourable Selena			
Childers, and John			
Walbanke Childers	1827	932	0 0
June Tax	1 1	932	0 0
November	0 9½		

Number 25.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

Part of Wisbech Common, lying between  
Moreton's Leam and Bevil's Leam.

The Honourable Selena			
Childers, and John			
Walbanke Childers	1827	177	1 1
William Clark	1804	228	1 12
George Bradley	1815	85	3 27
June Tax	1 1	491	2 0
November	0 9½		

LOT XII.—No. 13.

Elm Common and Severals.

John Edes	1808	150	0 0
Ann Gibbons	1819	38	2 0
William Symons	1822	61	2 0
June Tax	1 4	250	0 0
November	1 0		

LOT II.—No. 8.

Ladus Fen, next unto Creek. A.

Henry James Nichols	1802	115	0 0
June Tax	1 4	115	0 0
November	1 0		

LOT III.—No. 13.

Ladus Fen. B.

Sir Thomas Peyton	1739	115	0 0
June Tax	1 4	115	0 0
November	1 0		

## LOT VI.—No. 12.

Ladus Fen. C.

		A.	R.	P.
William Bacon	1796	115	0	0
June Tax	s. d.	115	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT IX.—No. 13.

Ladus Fen. D.

William Waudby	1826	115	0	0
June Tax	1 4	115	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XII.—No. 11.

Ladus Fen. E.

Thomas Lister Wiles	1815	115	0	0
June Tax	1 4	115	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XVII.—No. 10.

Ladus Fen. F.

Thomas Jenkinson	1693	105	0	0
June Tax	1 4	105	0	0
November	1 0			

UPWELL, OUTWELL, AND WELNEY.

## LOT III.—No. 18.

Eausimoor, &amp;c. A.

## Part I. East of the 16 Feet.

Joel Tomlinson	1754	37	0	0
Hugh Wool	1803	91	0	0
James Saunders, and Rebecca his wife	1805	50	0	0
Robert Woodward	1808	50	0	0
Richard Orton, and Thomas Orton, (up- on trust)	1824	118	0	0
June Tax	1 0	346	0	0
November	0 9			

## Part II. West of the 16 Feet.

James Saunders, and Rebecca his wife	1805	25	0	0
Ralph Aveling	1811	108	0	0
Robert Woodward	1808	21	0	0
June Tax	1 0	154	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT VI.—No. 17.

Eausimoor, &amp;c. B.

James Saunders	1800	2	0	1
Thomas Orton	1803	250	0	0
Trustees of Wisbech Chapel of Ease	1827	247	3	39
June Tax	1 0	500	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT IV.—No. 13.

Eausimoor, Well, Pingle, and Farmer's  
Fen. C.

		A.	R.	P.
Richard Orton	1804	469	1	0
Thomas Orton	1804	78	3	0
June Tax	s. d.	548	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT VII.—No. 16.

Eausimoor, &amp;c. D.

Morley Beart	1824	500	0	0
June Tax	1 0	500	0	0
November	0 9			

## LOT XI.—No. 1.

Neatmoor, in Upwell. A.

George L. Jenyns, (clerk)	1783	250	0	0
June Tax	1 8	250	0	0
November	1 3			

## LOT XIII.—No. 1.

Neatmoor, in Upwell. B.

George L. Jenyns, (clerk)	1783	125	0	0
Sarah Grimmer	1821	65	0	0
John Wing	1819	60	0	0

June Tax	1 4	250	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XVIII.—No. 1.

Neatmoor. C.

William Thompson	1814	20	0	0
William Elmer	1809	36	0	0
Adam Chapman	1809	16	0	0
Benjamin Vipan	1811	40	0	0
John Wing	1819	138	0	0

June Tax	1 4	250	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT XV.—No. 15.

Shevens in Well, next the Town of Upwell.  
William Hopkin

June Tax	1 4	100	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT XVII.—No. 12.

Shevens, next toward Welney.

John Hopkin	1822	100	0	0
June Tax	1 4	100	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT I.—No. 21.

Hale Fen Common, and Sedge Fen, a  
Several by Welney, next to Welney. A.

Part. I. Out of the Wash.  
William Beeton 1809 100 0 0

June Tax	0 8	100	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. In the Wash.

Hugh Jackson	1811	<i>A.</i>	<i>R. P.</i>
		100	0 0
June Tax	0 8		
November	0 6		

LOT VI.—No. 18.

Hale Fen Common, and Sedge Fen, by Welney. B.

Part I. Out of the Wash.

William Beeton	1809	100	0 0
June Tax	0 8	100	0 0
November	0 6		

Part II. In the Wash.

Hugh Jackson	1811	100	0 0
June Tax	0 8	100	0 0
November	0 6		

LOT VII.—No. 15.

Hale Fen Common, and Sedge Fen, by Welney, next unto the remaining part of Sedge Fen.

Part I. Out of the Wash.

William Beeton	1809	95	0 0
June Tax	0 8	95	0 0
November	0 6		

Part II. In the Wash.

John Hibbert	1815	100	0 0
June Tax	0 8	100	0 0
November	0 6		

LOT IX.—No. 21.

Loveoaks, a Several adjoining to Common Piece.

Thomas Archer	1820	21	0 0
June Tax	0 8	21	0 0
November	0 6		

LOT IX.—No. 20.

Common piece in Welney.

William Beeton	1809	53	0 0
John Hibbert	1809	17	0 0
Benjamin Bird	1810	64	0 0
June Tax	0 4	134	0 0
November	0 3		

LOT IX.—No. 19.

Knobbals, in Welney, South of Bedford River.

John Goldsmith	1814	12	0 0
William Beeton	1809	7	0 0
June Tax	0 8	19	0 0
November	0 6		

LOT X.—No. 27.

Part of Knobbals, in Welney, North of Bedford River, exchanged to South of Bedford River.

William Beeton	1809	<i>A. R. P.</i>
		9 0 0
June Tax	1 0	9 0 0
November	0 9	

LOT X.—No. 24.

Mr. Fincham's Grounds, in Londoner's Fen.

Part I. In the Wash.

William Beeton	1809	3 3 0
June Tax	1 4	3 3 0
November	1 0	

Part II. Out of the Wash.

Richard Greaves Townley	1823	8 0 0
June Tax	1 4	8 0 0
November	1 0	

LOT X.—No. 22.

Sir Robert Bell's Grounds, in Londoner's Fen.

Part I. In the Wash.

William Beeton	1809	5 0 0
June Tax	1 4	5 0 0
November	1 0	

Part II. North of the Old Bedford.

Richard Greaves Townley	1823	88 3 0
June Tax	1 4	88 3 0
November	1 0	

Part III. Next London Lode.

Sarah Grimmer	1821	42 3 0
June Tax	1 4	42 3 0
November	1 0	

LOT XV.—No. 21.

A Several of Mr. Strange's, in Londoner's Fen.

Thomas Skeels	1699	12 0 0
June Tax	1 4	12 0 0
November	1 0	

LOT X.—No. 26.

Part of Sedge Fen, in Welney, North of Bedford River.

William Lee	1808	1 0 0
June Tax	0 8	1 0 0
November	0 6	



## LOT XI.—No. 20.

Part of Sedge Fen, in Welney, North of Bedford River.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>A.</i>	<i>R.</i>	<i>P.</i>
William Lee	1808		10	0	0
June Tax	0	8	10	0	0
November	0	6			

## LOT VIII.—No. 20.

Hen Middle, in Londoner's Fen, called also, Hill's 10 Acres,

Thomas Skeels	1699	10	0	0
June Tax	1 4	10	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT VIII.—No. 18.

Sir John Watt's Grounds, in Londoner's Fen.

Thomas White	1824	160	0	0	
Hugh Wool	1818	192	1	0	
June Tax	1	4	352	1	0
November	1	0			

## LOT XI.—No. 19.

Sir William Cockayne's Ground, in Londoner's Fen.

William Lee	1808	171	0	0
June Tax	1 4	171	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT X.—No. 25.

The Ground in Londoner's Fen, formerly Mr. Fincham's.

Richard Greaves Townley	1823	13	1	0
June Tax	1 4	13	1	0
November	1 0			

## LOT X.—No. 23.

Sir Lewis Tresham's Grounds, in Londoner's Fen.

Richard Greaves Town-	1823	93	1	0
ley				
June Tax	1 4	93	1	0
November	1 0			

## LOT X.—No. 28.

Three Severs of Well, between Popham's Eau and New Dike.

## Part I. Lynn Meadow.

John Wing	1819	35	0	0
June Tax	1 8	35	0	0
November	1 3			

## Part II. Formerly Diamond's.

Joel Tomlinson	1750	25	0	0
June Tax	1 8	25	0	0
November	1 3			

## Part III. Formerly Bell's.

Joel Tomlinson	1750	5	1
June Tax	1	8	5
November	1	3	

## LOT XII.—No. 17.

Langbeach Several in Upwell.

Edward Southwell	1706	6	
William Lee	1825	1	
June Tax	1	8	7
November	1	3	

## LOT XVIII.—No. 18.

Marmound, a Several in Upwell.

William Bacon	1801	27	
June Tax	2	0	27
November	1	6	

## LOT XVIII.—No. 19.

The Several Grounds, in Well, by Cote.

Thomas Lister Wiles	1815	17	
June Tax	1	8	17
November	1	3	

## LOT VI.—No. 19.

Severals of Well and Welney. D.

## Part I. Formerly Moyse's.

Morley Beart	1808	105	
June Tax	1	8	105
November	1	3	

## Part II. Formerly Taylor's.

Morley Beart	1808	46	
June Tax	1	8	46
November	1	3	

## Part III. Formerly Bellamy's.

Thomas Sneath	1766	4	
June Tax	1	8	4
November	1	3	

## Part IV. Called Rollingham.

William Sergeant	1740	15	
June Tax	1	8	15
November	1	3	

## Part V. Formerly Calverly's.

Morley Beart	1788	8	
June Tax	1	8	8
November	1	3	

## Part VI. Next the Ground called the Land.

Susanna Jackson, and Elizabeth Jackson	1795	3	
June Tax	1	8	3
November	1	3	

Part VII. Next Mag's Lake.

Hugh Wool	1780	A.	R.	P.
		7	3	16
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part VIII. Near Mag's Lake.

William Lee	1808	5	3	36
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part IX. Next Friday Lake.

The Trustees of Wisbech Chapel of Ease	1827	4	2	0
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part X. Brimstone Hill.

William Orton	1821	7	0	10
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XI. Near Brimstone Hill.

The Trustees of Wisbech Chapel of Ease	1827	9	1	22
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XII. Formerly Fincham's.

William Lee	1801	13	2	0
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XIII. Formerly Roger Pratt's.

Robert Hills	1786	7	2	0
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XIV. Formerly Gray's.

Robert Hills	1786	1	2	25
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XV. Near Darcy Lode.

Robert Hills	1786	0	3	12
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XVI. On the North side of Darcy Lode.

Robert Beart	1802	8	3	30
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XVII. On the South side of Darcy Lode.

Robert Beart	1802	11	3	10
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XVIII. Formerly Webster's.

Henry Julin	1810	A.	R.	P.
		2	1	28
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XIX. Lewis Meadow.

William Beart	1824	7	0	12
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XX. Formerly Hudson's.

William Denston	1815	8	3	38
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part XXI. Formerly Stanbridge's.

Joseph Gorden	1822	5	1	30
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

LOT I.—No. 22.

Severals of Well and Welney. A.

Part I. Formerly Golden and Buokworth's.

William Beart	1824	11	1	18
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part II. Formerly Birt and Bond's.

Mary Scott	1785	6	1	16
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part III. Formerly Bond's.

Mary Scott	1785	1	2	10
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part IV. Formerly Waters and James's.

James Scott	1785	8	1	10
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part V. In the Wash.

John Doughty	1674	8	2	8
Land not ascertained		1	2	0
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

Part VI. Part of 10a. 1r. 26p., near Popham's Eau.

Abraham Gardner	1715	2	1	18
June Tax	1 8			
November	1 3			

## LOT III.—No. 20.

Several of Well and Welney. B.			A. R. P.	
Part I. Part of 10a. 1r. 26p. Near Pop- ham's Eau.				
Abraham Gardner	1715		8	0 8
June Tax	1 8		8	0 8
November	1 3			
Part II. Formerly Goldswell's.				
Abraham Gardner	1656		1	0 12
June Tax	1 8		1	0 12
November	1 3			
Part III. Formerly Sir Robert Bell's.				
Abraham Gardner	1656		8	1 30
June Tax	1 8		8	1 30
November	1 3			
Part IV. Formerly Drue's.				
Thomas Wright	1800		14	1 20
June Tax	1 8		14	1 20
November	1 3			
Part V. Called Great Greens.				
Thomas Wright	1800		26	3 10
June Tax	1 8		26	3 10
November	1 3			
Part VI. Formerly Bellamy's.				
Abraham Gardner	1656		4	3 38
June Tax	1 8		4	3 38
November	1 3			
Part VII. Formerly Goddard's.				
Susanna Jackson, and Elizabeth Jackson	1795		1	2 0
June Tax	1 8		1	2 0
November	1 3			
Part VIII. Called Green's End.				
William Orton	1825		3	3 10
June Tax	1 8		3	3 10
November	1 3			
Part IX. Formerly Diamond's.				
Morley Beart	1808		3	1 30
June Tax	1 8		3	1 30
November	1 3			
Part X. Formerly Man's.				
Abraham Gardner	1656		2	2 28
June Tax	1 8		2	2 28
November	1 3			
Part XI. Formerly Parlett's.				
Robert Hills	1786		4	2 10
June Tax	1 8		4	2 10
November	1 3			

## LOT V.—No. 21.

Several of Well and Welney. C.			A. R. P.	
Part I. Formerly Man's.				
Hugh Wool	1780		8	2 0
June Tax	1 8		8	2 0
November	1 3			
Part II. Formerly Dixon's.				
William Lee, William Dow, and William Smart	1817		7	2 0
June Tax	1 8		7	2 0
November	1 3			

## LOT XIII.—No. 18.

Several of Well and Welney. E.				
Part I. Formerly belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich.				
Frances Marshall and John Marshall	1674		13	0 30
June Tax	1 8		13	0 30
November	1 3			
Part II. Formerly Bloome's.				
John Hopkin	1812		2	3 33
June Tax	1 8		2	3 33
November	1 3			
Part III. Part of 10a. 3r. 10p. Formerly Marshall's.				
John Hopkin	1812		4	1 27
June Tax	1 8		4	1 27
November	1 3			

## LOT XVII.—No. 22.

Several of Well and Welney. F.				
Part I. Part of 10a. 3r. 10p. Formerly Marshall's.				
John Hopkin	1812		6	1 23
June Tax	1 8		6	1 23
November	1 3			
Part II. Near Causeway Dike.				
John Hopkin	1812		4	2 10
June Tax	1 8		4	2 10
November	1 3			
Part III. Adjoining Causeway Dike.				
Joseph Clemenson	1810		0	3 10
June Tax	1 8		0	3 10
November	1 3			
Part IV. Adjoining Maid Lode.				
Joseph Clemenson	1810		3	0 0
June Tax	1 8		3	0 0
November	1 3			
Part V. Formerly Stanbridge's.				
John Symonds	1700		1	0 0
June Tax	1 8		1	0 0
November	1 3			

Part VI. Formerly Ravens.			
	s.	d.	A. R. P.
Land not ascertained			1 0 0
June Tax	1	8	1 0 0
November	1	3	
Part VII. In the Wash.			
Robert Rayner	1816		11 2 0
June Tax	1	8	11 2 0
November	1	3	

Part VIII. In the Littleport District.			
		s.	d.
Isaac Cox	1818	3	0 20
June Tax		1	8
November		1	3

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

LOT XVII.—No. 5.			
By Earith Sluice.			
William Drury, Garland Drury, Thomas Skeels, William Seeley, John Cranwell, Thomas Soper, jun. Thomas Isaac, and John Brown, jun. 1688			
			A. R. P.
			2 0 0
June Tax	3	8	2 0 0
November	2	9	

LOT XIV.—No. 7.			
Crollode, in Somersham.			
Thomas Longland	1787	50	2 16
William Ilett	1821	4	2 0
Jonathan Ilett	1812	14	3 24
June Tax	1	8	70 0 0
November	1	3	

LOT I.—No. 18.			
Somersham Common. A.			
Thomas Longland	1787	250	0 0
John Minet Henniker, and John Chafy, (upon trust)	1815	50	0 0
June Tax	1	8	300 0 0
November	1	3	

LOT II.—No. 13.			
Somersham Common. B.			
Jonathan Ilett	1805	150	0 0
William Ilett	1821	150	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT IV.—No. 14.			
Somersham Common. C.			
William Margetts	1803	261	3 5
John Ilett	1621	38	0 35
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT V.—No. 18.			
Somersham Common. D.			
Charles Leeds	1805	300	0 0
June Tax	1	4	300 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT XII.—No. 16.			
Somersham Common. E.			
Edith Watson	1820	185	0 0
Evan Edwards	1824	148	0 0
June Tax	1	4	333 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT X.—No. 10.			
Rowey, in Somersham.			
Joseph Vipaa	1818	11	0 0
June Tax	2	0	11 0 0
November	1	6	



## LOT IX.—No. 17.

<i>A. R. P.</i>			
Warboys Fen, Wistow Fen, Eastmoor in Ramsey; Pulver and Turf Fen, in Dodington. A.			
John Skeels	1809	5	0 0
John Longland	1803	63	2 0
Fryer Richardson	1809	95	0 0
John Broughton	1810	26	0 6
John Harvey	1810	19	0 0
John Dring	1812	3	1 8
John and James Pope	1812	8	1 28
John Bedford	1812	10	2 0
James Gadsby	1814	3	3 12
John Balduck	1814	6	1 20
John Remington	1817	25	0 0
John Skeels, jun.	1819	6	2 0
Charles Finch	1820	3	2 0
John Margetts	1818	21	1 0
Francis Bleak	1810	28	2 4
James Hicks (clerk)	1821	26	0 0
John Pope	1819	5	0 0
Thomas Escolme Fisher	1824	32	3 12
George Pryme	1825	87	1 30
William Gifford		23	0 0
	<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	0	8	500 0 0
November	0	6	

## LOT X.—No. 20.

Warboys, &c. B.			
Read Peacock	1756	250	0 0
Benjamin Hervey	1793	26	0 19
Martha How	1793	25	0 0
William Hervey	1797	31	0 0
Ditto, Tax released to Fryer Richardson			
		3	0 0
Thomas Hervey	1795	12	0 0
John Longland	1820	152	3 21
June Tax	1	0	500 0 0
November	0	9	

## LOT XI.—No. 17.

Warboys, &c. C.			
Read Peacock	1756	212	0 0
John Beard	1747	82	0 0
John Bletsoe	1811	100	0 0
John Rowell	1820	58	0 0
William Harvey	1819	35	0 0
James Jones	1815	43	0 0
June Tax	1	0	500 0 0
November	0	9	

## LOT XIII.—No. 15.

Warboys, &c. D.			
William Henry Fellows	1804	560	0 0
June Tax	1	0	500 0 0
November	0	9	

## LOT XIV.—No. 16

Warboys, &c. E.			
Daniel Fryer and Thomas Fryer			
	1814		
Isaac Ibberson	1820		
Henry Ibberson	1820		
John Ibberson	1820		
Francis Ibberson	1820		
	<i>s. d.</i>		
June Tax	1	4	5
November	1	0	

## LOT XV.—No. 19.

Warboys, &c. F.			
John Fryer and Sarah his wife			
	1814		
Thomas Behoo	1814		
Henry Nightingale	1818		
Thomas Sewell and Thomas Grant (upon trust)	1826		
Land not ascertained			
June Tax	1	4	5
November	1	0	

## LOT XVI.—No. 15.

Warboys, &c. G.			
Joseph Richardson	1819		
John Fryer, jun. and Sarah his wife	1814		
June Tax	1	0	50
November	0	9	

## LOT XVII.—No. 17

Warboys, &c. H.			
Sir John Bernard, bart. 1668	45		
John Carrington Dunn	1820		
Ditto Tax released			
June Tax	1	0	50
November	0	9	

## LOT XVIII.—No. 15.

Warboys, &c. I.			
William H. Fellowes	1804		
June Tax	1	0	50
November	0	9	

## LOT XIX.—No. 13.

Warboys, &c. K.			
William Skripsbire (moiety) and Mary Sherwood, John Sherwood, Henry Sherwood, & Hope Collett (a moiety)			
	1821		
June Tax	1	0	55
November	0	9	

LOT V.—No. 5.

	A.	R.	P.
Berry Mow Fen.			
Abraham Staffurth, and Sarah his wife	1787	45	0 0
June Tax	1	8	45 0 0
November	1	3	

LOT V.—No. 19.

Middlemoor in Ramsey.			
Abraham Bailey	1774	50	0 0
Edward Bellamy	1801	68	0 0
William Beard	1806	27	1 34
John Denton and William Denton	1813	2	1 26
Peter Behag	1806	94	1 30
Henry Smith	1810	34	3 15
John Hughes	1808	5	3 15
Thomas Coot	1808	4	1 26
William Newton, jun.	1818	4	2 26
George Infield	1812	4	2 27
Robert Smith	1810	6	1 26
Samuel Wells	1817	30	2 21
Nicholas Bellamy	1805	0	0 34
John Puttrell	1811	14	0 0
William Denton	1823	9	2 0
William Nickless	1823	24	0 0
Robert Pearson	1823	9	2 0
Samuel Gale	1823	7	0 0
Edward Hemmaway	1825	2	0 0
June Tax	1	4	400 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT VII.—No. 17.

Middlemoor in Ramsey. B.			
Tycho Wing	1820	214	0 0
Thomas Gore	1803	36	0 0
John Puttrell	1811	81	1 0
Nicholas Bellamy	1805	23	2 15
William Saunders	1815	33	3 25
John Catling	1813	3	3 0
Samuel Golden	1813	3	3 0
Samuel Staffurth	1813	3	3 0
June Tax	1	0	400 0 0
November	0	9	

LOT VIII.—No. 16.

Middlemoor, in Ramsey, C.			
William Henry Fellowes	1814	100	0 0
William Palmer	1803	48	1 0
Samuel Newton	1812	47	1 0
William Saunders	1815	109	1 0
John Hidson	1824	95	1 0
June Tax	1	0	400 0 0
November	0	9	

LOT XVIII.—No. 16.

	A.	R.	P.
Middlemoor, in Ramsey. D.			
Henry Smith	1810	47	1 19
John Denton and William Denton	1813	151	0 28
William Ground	1813	101	1 33
June Tax	1	0	300 0 0
November	0	9	

LOT XIX.—No. 14.

Middlemoor, in Ramsey. E.			
Peter Descow	1765	5	0 0
William Flowers	1801	11	0 0
Thomas Ridlington	1806	32	0 0
Richard Pooley	1802	95	2 0
William Ground	1813	102	0 0
Richard Bagley Jackson	1819	26	0 0
Edward Robinson	1813	10	1 0
John Trigg	1813	6	0 0
Joseph Cunnington	1808	20	0 0
Henry Smith	1810	67	1 0
June Tax	1	4	375 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT XIV.—No. 17.

Ramsey Common, by Delph Dike.			
William Newton	1821	108	0 0
June Tax	1	4	108 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT VII.—No. 18.

Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals, in Ramsey, A.

Part I. Abbot's Pingle.

Thomas Gascoigne	1777	40	0 0
John Butler	1806	40	0 0
June Tax	1	4	80 0 0
November	1	0	

Part II. Ashbeach.

Thomas Ridlington	1805	28	0 0
June Tax	1	4	28 0 0
November	1	0	

LOT XIII.—No. 17.

Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals, in Ramsey, B.

Part I. Ashbeach.

Thomas Ridlington	1805	48	0 0
June Tax	1	4	48 0 0
November	1	0	

Part II. Wigin Moor, Ramsey.

John Andrews	1813	21	0 0
June Tax	1	4	21 0 0
November	1	0	

## LOT III.—No. 7.

Ramsey Severals. A.

Part I. The Upper Steds.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>A. R. P.</i>
William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		5 2 20
June Tax	1	8	5 2 20
November	1	3	

Part II. The Nether Steds.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		18 1 0
June Tax	1	8	18 1 0
November	1	3	

Part III. Formerly Beale's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1814		3 1 10
June Tax	1	8	3 1 10
November	1	3	

Part IV. Daintree and Bagdole, formerly  
Cromwell's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1814		33 1 10
June Tax	1	8	33 1 10
November	1	3	

Part V. Bagdole, formerly Howson's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1814		12 2 0
June Tax	1	8	12 2 0
November	1	3	

## LOT IV.—No. 5.

Ramsey Severals. B.

Part I. Near Ugg Mere.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		6 0 0
June Tax	1	8	6 0 0
November	1	3	

Part II. Beaupre Closes.

Isaac Hanchor	1760		8 1 0
June Tax	1	8	8 1 0
November	1	3	

Part III. Great Hilks.

Thomas Burgess	1815		28 1 0
June Tax	1	8	28 1 0
November	1	3	

Part IV. Little Hilks.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		2 2 0
June Tax	1	8	2 2 0
November	1	3	

Part V. Pollins.

Thomas Burgess	1815		2 2 0
June Tax	1	8	2 2 0
November	1	3	

## Part VI. Bear's Armes.

*A. R. P.*

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		3 3 30
June Tax	1	8	3 3 30
November	1	3	

Part VII. Vicar's Closes.

Edward Macer	1826		6 0 10
June Tax	1	8	6 0 10
November	1	3	

Part VIII. Stockin Fen.

John Ibberson	1797		1 2 0
June Tax	1	8	1 2 0
November	1	3	

Part IX. Formerly Nettleton and others.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1820		4 0 0
June Tax	1	8	4 0 0
November	1	3	

Part X. Formerly Bateman's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1820		2 0 28
June Tax	1	8	2 0 28
November	1	3	

Part XI. Formerly Lavender's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		1 1 4
June Tax	1	8	1 1 4
November	1	3	

Part XII. Formerly Leeder's.

William Henry Fel- lowes	1804		1 2 4
June Tax	1	8	1 2 4
November	1	3	

Part XIII. Formerly Williamson's.

James Paris	1736		2 2 28
June Tax	1	8	2 2 28
November	1	3	

Part XIV. Formerly Holmes's and How-  
son's.

Hugh Waudby, and William Hopkinson	1820		0 3 0
Thomas Darlow	1820		2 2 16
June Tax	1	8	3 1 16
November	1	3	

## LOT V.—No. 6.

Ramsey Severals. C.

Part I. Formerly Barnes, Knight's, and  
others.

Hugh Waudby, and William Hopkinson	1820		1 0 0
Thomas Darlow	1820		6 0 0
June Tax	2	4	7 0 0
November	1	9	

Part II. Formerly Howson's.

		A.	R.	P.
William Flowers	1797	1	0	0
	s. d.			
June Tax	2 4	1	0	0
November	1 9			

LOT II.—No. 15.

Upwood Fen, next towards Ramsey.

Owen Fann, Tax released	1731	46	2	0
Abraham Staffurth	1790	20	3	30
Sir Charles Morgan, bart.	1805	217	3	20
Hugh Wandby, and William Hopkinson	1820	95	0	20
John Margetts	1821	50	0	13
Charles Margetts	1821	20	1	37
June Tax	0 8	451	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XIII.—No. 16.

Upwood Fen, adjoining Whittlesey Way.

William Bedford, Tax released	1826	10	0	0
Mary, wife of Henry Nixon	1802	79	0	20
Sir C. Morgan, bart.	1805	2	3	20
John Margetts	1819	93	2	0
William Henry Fel-loes	1809	83	3	0
Robert Moyses	1812	21	3	20
John Stratton	1817	8	2	20
Benjamin Abraham	1817	3	1	20
Charles Margetts	1824	101	3	20
June Tax	0 8	405	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XI.—No. 18.

Ravely Fen.

William Brighty	1794	207	1	30
Ditto, Tax released to himself		21	2	10
June Tax	1 0	229	0	0
November	0 9			

Number 26.

Part of the 3000 Acres Overplus.

Woodwalton Common

Edmund Barley	1825	100	0	0
John Thurlow Dering	1805	100	0	0
Christopher Pemberton	1805	62	2	7
Lord Viscount Milton	1808	228	2	37
The Right Honourable Charles Yorke	1808	228	2	36
James Barker, clerk	1809	108	1	36
Henry James Nicholls	1824	108	2	4
June Tax	0 8	937	0	0
November	0 6			

LOT XII.—No. 5.

A Several in Woodwalton.

		A.	R.	P.
George Pryme	1824	36	0	0
	s. d.			
June Tax	2 0	36	0	0
November	1 6			

LOT I.—No. 13.

A Several in Woodwalton.

George Pryme	1824	15	0	0
June Tax	1 4	15	0	0
November	1 0			

Number 27.

Part of the 3000 Acres Overplus.  
Highbury Grounds.

John Sisman	1803	98	0	0
Ditto, Tax released		2	0	0
June Tax	1 0	100	0	0
November	0 9			

Number 18.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.

Sawtre Common, 199a. 2r. 0p. and a  
Several 19 Acres.

George Pryme	1820	218	2	0
June Tax	1 1	218	2	0
November	0 9½			

LOT XII.—No. 6.

Sawtre Fen.

George Pryme	1820	6	2	0
June Tax	0 4	6	2	0
November	0 3			

LOT III.—No. 19.

Conington Seversals. A.

John Hethcote	1802	200	0	0
June Tax	1 4	200	0	0
November	1 0			

LOT V.—No. 20.

Conington Seversals. B.

John Hethcote		81	0	0
June Tax	1 0	81	0	0
November	0 9			



## Number 28.

Part of the 3000 Acres overplus.

Part of Holme Fen.

		A.	R.	P.
William Plowright	1788	13	0	0
Ditto, Tax released to himself		6	0	0
William Wells	1820	250	0	34
Ditto, Tax released		78	2	33
William Margetts	1825	505	1	9
Ditto, Tax released		96	2	31
George Avery, Tax released		5	0	0
Saunders and Nightingale Tax released		8	0	13
	s. d.			
June Tax	2 0	963	0	0
November	1 6			

## LOT XVI.—No. 5.

Holm Fen, near Ashbeach.

John Stokes	1809	20	1	7
Ditto, Tax released		28	2	33
June Tax	2 0	49	0	0
November	1 6			

## LOT IX. No. 18.

Denton Common.

William Wells	1810	156	0	0
June Tax	1 4	156	0	0
November	1 0			

## LOT IV.—No. 10.

Caldecott Severals.

Part I. Moss Fen.

William Wells	1816	18	0	0
June Tax	0 8	18	0	0
November	0 6			

Part II. Turf Lots.

William Wells	1816	4	3	0
June Tax	0 8	4	3	0
November	0 6			

Part III. Mowing Lots.

William Wells	1816	8	3	0
June Tax	0 8	8	3	0
November	0 6			

Part IV. Formerly Lord Montacute's.

William Wells	1816	14	1	0
June Tax	0 8	14	1	0
November	0 6			

Part V. Formerly Hall's.

William Wells	1816	3	3	0
June Tax	0 8	3	3	0
November	0 6			

Part VI. Formerly Sir Thomas Col and others.

William Wells	1816	2
William Kelly, and Charlotte, his wife	1814	2
	s. d.	
June Tax	0 8	4
November	0 6	

Part VII. Near the Hard Lands

William Kelly, and Charlotte, his wife	1814	2
June Tax	0 8	2
November	0 6	

## LOT XIII.—No. 13.

Stilton Common.

John Mason	1756	30
Francis Seaton	1804	21
James Lyon	1803	9
William Whitwell, clerk	1798	30
Samuel Wells	1820	30
Ditto, Tax released		30
Michael Goodwin	1811	10
June Tax	1 4	160
November	1 0	

## Number 17.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres. Common and Severals.

Part I. Yaxley Common.

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honorable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	409
William Roberts	1812	222
June Tax	1 1	632
November	0 9½	

Part II. Western Meadow.

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	8
June Tax	1 1	8
November	1 9½	

Part III. Formerly Gentil and

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	1
June Tax	1 1	1
November	0 9½	

Part IV. Formerly Pierson's

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	
June Tax	1 1	
November	0 9½	

Part V. Formerly Watt's.

A. R. P.			
Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	0 0 5	
June Tax	1 1	0 0 5	
November	0 9½		

Part VI. Formerly Proby's and others.

George Castor	1810	1 0 10	
Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	2 0 25	
June Tax	1 1	3 0 35	
November	0 9½		

Part VII. Formerly Proby's.

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	8 2 0	
June Tax	1 1	8 2 0	
November	0 9½		

Part VIII. Between Trundle Meer, and  
Whittlesey Meer.

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	5 0 10	
June Tax	1 1	5 0 10	
November	0 9½		

Part IX. Near Whittlesey Meer, formerly  
Brown's.

A. R. P.			
Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	1 1 0	
June Tax	1 1	1 1 0	
November	0 9½		

Part X. At the end of Conquest Lode.

Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and the Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	0 3 0	
June Tax	1 1	0 3 0	
November	0 9½		

Number 16.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres. Farcett.  
Part I. Farcett Common.

The Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	940 0 0	
June Tax	1 1	940 0 0	
November	0 9½		

Part II. Farcett Severals.

The Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	162 0 0	
June Tax	1 1	162 0 0	
November	0 9½		

Number 15.

Part of the King's 12,000 Acres.  
Standground.

The Honourable W. T. Twisleton Fiennes	1827	127 0 0	
June Tax	1 1	127 0 0	
November	0 9½		

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**November 6<sup>th</sup>.**



## NORTH LEVEL.

## LOT I.—No. 12.

Thorney.

	A.	R.	P.
Francis Russel, Marquis of Tavistock	1810	100	0 0
June Tax	0 9	100	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT XX.—No. 1.

Thorney Knarr Fen.

John, Duke of Bedford	1801	2002	1 20
Dirto, Tax brought off		637	2 20
William George Adam	1815	400	0 0
June Tax	0 9	3900	0 0
November	0 6		

## LOT XI.—No. 18.

Sutton in Holland.	A.	Next unto Wride.
Jacob Le Houck	1683	17 2 0
Joseph Beakley	1821	40 0 0
Samuel Wells	1823	3 0 0
Joseph Bellars	1827	54 2 0

June Tax	1 3	115	0 0
November	0 10		

## LOT XIV.—No. 11.

Sutton in Holland. B.

John Girdlestone, Steed Girdlestone, & Thomas Girdlestone, (a moiety) and William Bailey, Edward Bailey, John Bailey, and Steed Girdlestone (a moiety) In trust to sell	1822	88	0 0
Joseph Beakley	1821	27	0 0

June Tax	1 3	115	0 0
November	0 10		

## LOT XV.—No. 13.

Sutton in Holland. C.

John Girdlestone, Steed Girdlestone, & Thomas Girdlestone, (a moiety), and William Bailey, Edward Bailey, John Bailey, and Steed Girdlestone (a moiety) In trust to sell	1822	95	0 0
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June Tax	1 3	95	0 0
November	0 10		

## LOT XVI.—No. 10

Sutton in Holland. D.

John Girdlestone, Steed Girdlestone, & Thomas Girdlestone, (a moiety) and William Bailey, Edward Bailey, John Bailey, and Steed Girdlestone (a moiety) In trust to sell	1822	1	
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June Tax	1 3	1	
November	0 10		

## LOT XVI.—No. 4.

Wisbech Common. In the Wash. Ralph Pierson

June Tax	0 3	4	
November	0 2		

## LOT XVII.—No. 6.

Wisbech Common. A.			
Thomas Sampter	1693	11	
Giles Marriott	1792	14	
Samuel Marriott	1802	21	

June Tax	1 0	4	
November	0 8		

## LOT XV.—No. 4.

Wisbech Common. B. Ralph Pierson

June Tax	1 0	3	
November	0 8		

## LOT XVIII.—No. 5

Wisbech Common. C.			
Alice, the wife of William Aveling	1793	21	
Thomas and William Parnell	1818	11	
John Stennett	1822	14	

June Tax	1 0	4	
November	0 8		

## LOT XIX.—No. 4.

Wisbech Common. D.			
John Stennett	1801	21	
Samuel Eagar	1802	14	
Ann Snushall	1818	11	

June Tax	1 0	4	
November	0 8		

LOT V.—No. 13.

Throckenholt by Clowcross. A.			
Abraham Ulyatt	1796	5 0 0	
June Tax	1 6	5 0 0	
November	1 0		

LOT XVIII.—No. 11.

Throckenholt by Clowcross. B.			
Abraham Ulyatt	1796	40 0 0	
June Tax	1 6	40 0 0	
November	1 0		

LOT XIX.—No. 9.

Throckenholt by Clowcross. C.			
Abraham Ulyatt	1796	35 0 0	
June Tax	1 6	35 0 0	
November	1 0		

Number 19.

Part II. North Fen, in the Wash.			
Thomas Searle	1724	3 2 35	
Thomas Sarjeant	1724	3 2 10	
Thomas Aveling	1795	7 0 0	
John Lamb, and			
Tavernor Lamb	1795	8 3 5	
John Boyce	1795	8 1 30	
Thomas Searle	1795	4 1 15	
George Burnham	1795	3 2 25	
William Boyce	1795	4 1 5	
John Duke of Bedford	1801	254 1 0	
Francis Russell, Mar-			
quis of Tavistock	1810	100 0 0	
William Hemment	1818	6 3 35	
June Tax	0 9½	400 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Part III. North Fen, on the north side of the Barrier Bank.

John Vermaile	1738	8 2 28	
John Stona	1740	10 0 3	
Daniel Bailey	1746	5 0 0	
Ditto, Tax bought off		200 0 0	
William Haynes, and			
Elizabeth his wife	1766	10 2 1	
James Barber	1793	19 3 13	
Martha Searle	1804	119 2 7	
Charles Bonner	1815	11 0 15	
William Bridges	1817	14 1 28	
Ditto, Tax bought off		97 0 0	
John Castle	1825	20 0 19	
Matthew Squire	1826	32 0 22	
John Boyce	1826	30 3 4	
Samuel Watson	1827	98 3 20	
June Tax	0 9½	678 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 24.

Severals in Pryors Fen.

Part I. Formerly Auldfeld and others.			
Matthew Squire	1826	163 2 30	
June Tax	0 9½	163 2 30	
November	0 6½		

Part II. Formerly Rose's and Pratt's. Called Cawcroft.

Thomas Elsum	1790	23 1 10	
June Tax	0 9½	25 1 10	
November	0 6½		

Number 15.

Northey.			
John Pank	1826	64 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	64 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 1.

Crowland, in Lincolnshire.			
Sir Culling Smith,			
Bart., and Culling			
Eardley Smith	1827	182 0 0	
Robert Preston	1828	115 2 0	
Mary Matson	1828	102 2 0	
June Tax	0 9½	400 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 2.

Peterborough Common, called Borough Great Fen.			
Sir Culling Smith,			
Bart., and Culling			
Eardley Smith	1827	2622 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	2622 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 3.

Burrrough Little Fen.			
John Pank	1824	88 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	88 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 4.

Alderlands, in the County of Lincoln.			
Sir Culling Smith,			
Bart. and Culling			
Eardley Smith	1827	290 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	290 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 5.

Single Sole Farm.			
Daniel Miller	1803	45 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	45 0 0	
November	0 6½		

Number 6.

Northam and Cranmoor.			
Part I. Northam.			
Daniel Miller	1803	40 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	40 0 0	
November	0 6½		
Part II. Cranmoor.			
William Moore	1823	40 0 0	
June Tax	0 9½	40 0 0	
November	0 6½		

## Number 7.

Small Acre Furlong 12a. 1r. 30p. and  
Chillum Tree Furlong.

Joseph Little	1806	15	3	30
June Tax	0	9½	15	3 30
November	0	6½		

## Number 8.

A Several of Richard Darby's.

Joseph Little	1806	1	0	10
June Tax	0	9½	1	0 10
November	0	6½		

## Number 9.

Tunholt Farm.

William Ervin Griffin	1823	30	3	0
June Tax	0	9½	30	3 0
November	0	6½		

## Number 10.

Ormsy Farm.

John Paak	1824	25	0	0
June Tax	0	9½	25	0 0
November	0	6½		

## Number 11.

Alder Fen.

Thomas Moore	1823	11
June Tax	0	9½
November	0	6½

## Number 12.

The Harp.

Hake Little	1803	2
John Cox	1803	2
June Tax	0	9½
November	0	6½

## Number 13.

Mr. Troughton's Several.

Francis King Eagle	1835	0
June Tax	0	9½
November	0	6½

## Number 14.

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Joseph Little	1806	5
June Tax	0	9½
November	0	6½

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Eagle, F. K.	-	-	752	Stennett, John	-	-	750
Egar, Samuel	-	-	750	Stona, John	-	-	751
Elsun, Thomas	-	-	751	Sumpter, Thomas	-	-	750
G.				T.			
Girdlestone, John and others	-	-	750	Tavistock, Marquis of	-	-	750
Griffin, Wm. Ervin	-	-	752	V.			
H.				Vermaile, John	-	-	751
Haynes, Wm. and wife	-	-	751	Ulyatt, Abraham	-	-	ib.
Hemment, William	-	-	ib.	W.			
L.				Watson, Samuel	-	-	751
Lamb, John and Tavernor	-	-	751	Wells, Samuel	-	-	750
Le Houck, Jacob	-	-	750				
Little, Hake	-	-	752				
Little, Josh.	-	-	ib.				

## No. XXXII.

**THE REPORT of the COMMITTEE of the Board appointed at a General April Meeting of the Honourable Corporation of BEDFORD LEVEL, to enquire into the general Liability of the Corporation.**

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THE committee have not been able to extend their enquiry, beyond the general outline of the liability of the corporation. The application of that liability to particular works, is governed by different circumstances. To some it now remains in its fullest extent; to others it is partially applicable. In some cases the alteration arises out of a contract, between the corporation and the owners of the lands interested. In some, it is a general convenience to the owners of the lands adjoining.

The point which was contended for before the committee of the House of Commons, upon the bill for the repair of the lower end of the barrier bank on the north side of the wash of the Hundred-Feet River, and which is now agitated by the opponents of that bill, involves a question of the greatest importance to all the owners of adventurers' lands—whether the corporation are not bound to expend the last farthing of the yearly value of all the adventurers' lands, before the other fen lands in the Bedford Level ought to be called upon to contribute towards any work of drainage. This is the question the committee feel themselves called upon to investigate.

The claims against the owners of the adventurers'

lations are now of no force. In 1663 the p<sup>r</sup> Level Act was passed.

The decree of the commissioners of sew called the Lynn Law, contains the first cor Francis earl of Bedford would do his best his own charge to drain the said marsh, and surrounded grounds, in such manner shall be fit for meadow, or pasture, or arab years. But because the said surrounded g spacious, and many parts thereof lie so dis sea, and from the several outfalls, as that it to contrive the work so, but that a great pa surrounded grounds will be overflowed by s until by outlets or otherwise the same can l or otherwise led along to the outfalls, it is such overflowings by sudden waters which longer upon the lands than in convenient t may pass away again, shall not be esteeme ing thereof." *Ante*, p. 102. As a recompense f the earl of Bedford and the adventurers 95,000 acres, one third part of the fens is Level. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, who h opportunity of knowing the actual inte parties, in his Discourse expressly says, thi to make the fens summer lands only. Verm

ther, by such sufficient partitions, dikes, and fences, as should be necessary to convey away the rain-water towards the great drains, subject to the directions of the commissioners of sewers, *Ante*, p. 104. So that it appears to the committee, that the rivers and outfalls were to be the works of the corporation, and the inner works to belong to the individual owners of the lands.

The contract with King Charles the First, was to drain the whole of the Bedford Level, together with other fens ; and he was to take as a recompence, not only the 95,000 acres decreed to Francis earl of Bedford, and the other participants, but 57,000 acres more : and he was to make the whole of the fens out of which these lands were taken, "as well winter grounds as summer grounds." Dugd. 412. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden says, "The King's contract was to make these lands winter lands ; that is, to free them from overflowing the rivers aforesaid, as far as by art can be devised." Verm. Disc. 6. The works to have been executed under this contract were begun, but not completed.

By the pretended act the adventurers were compelled to make the fens "winter grounds in such manner as the said rivers or any of them shall not overflow the grounds within the said level, breaches by inevitable accident only excepted." *Ante*, p. 371. The circumstances under which the adventurers were obliged to submit to these obligations do not require consideration. The act itself, and all its stipulations, are now at an end, and of no force.

All the contracts and obligations that existed prior to the passing of the 15th Car. II., the act for settling the draining of the fens, appear to the committee to be now of no importance, otherwise than as they are adopted, explained, or modified by the 15th Car. II. This statute does not appear to the committee to make a new contract, but to adopt the contract of the Lynn Law, with some modifications and alterations ; and the liabilities of



the corporation appear now to depend upon the joint construction of this statute and the Lynn Law.

The preamble of the 15th Car. II. contains several matters to which the general words of the body of the act appear to refer, and upon which the construction of those general words in the judgment of the committee depends. It recites the undertaking or contract of the Lynn Law, and the compensation which the adventurers were to have under that law. It also recites, that the adventurers had bestowed great sums of money for perfecting the works required by that law, and that, after some interruptions, they proceeded by colour of a pretended act of parliament, "in the completing and finishing the said works; and the commissioners appointed by that pretended act did adjudge the same drained; but the same cannot be preserved without a perpetual constant care, great charge, and orderly government." *Ante*, p. 386.

The undertaking or contract under the Lynn Law is very different to the obligations of the pretended act. The first is a contract to make the fens summer lands; the other requires them to be made winter lands.

It appears to the committee, that when the 15 Car. II. was passed, the adventurers were considered as acting under the Lynn Law. The preamble adopts the contract of the Lynn Law as the foundation upon which the statute proceeds, but it does not mention the obligations of the adventurers under the pretended act. If it had been intended to have followed the provisions of the pretended act, those provisions would have been stated, instead of the conditions of the Lynn Law. Both could not have stood together; and by omitting the obligations of the pretended act, and stating the liabilities under the Lynn Law, it is evident that the Lynn Law was intended to be adopted. The preamble states that the adventurers proceeded by colour of the pretended act, in finishing the

said works. These words of reference to the pretended act, taken in their fullest sense, can have but little weight against the general construction of the whole of the preamble. They state only the authority under which the adventurers had last proceeded, without describing the manner of proceeding, or the obligations under which they stood. But if any question could arise as to the reference to the pretended act, it is decided by the meaning of the words "the said works:" no other works are mentioned before, but the works under the Lynn Law; and the works they so proceeded to complete, must consequently have been the works they were bound to execute by that law. The preamble appears to adopt the principle that the adventurers had performed the first part of their contract; that they had made and completed all the works the drainage of the fens required, and that the commissioners under the pretended act had adjudged "the same" drained. "But the same cannot be preserved," that is, that the fens so drained cannot be preserved without the provisions of that act; and as far as the committee are able to judge, the preamble considers the future preservation of the work so made, and of the level so drained, to be the only objects of the statute. This construction appears to have been adopted by the legislature in passing the North Level act, 27th Geo. II. c. 19.; and the Bond Act, 29th Geo. II. c. 9.; for the recitals in the preambles of those acts contain the contract under the Lynn Law, without the slightest reference to the pretended act. *Ante*, p. 527, 633.

The different parts of the 15 Car. II. applicable to the question now under consideration, are not numerous; and the committee think it the best course to cite them, and to add such remarks as appear to them necessary.

Section 2. And the said governor, bailiffs, and "conservators," "shall, and may lay taxes from time to time," "for support, maintenance, and pre-

servation of the great level, and all other things do, to the support, maintenance, and preservation of the said great level; and works made and to be made." *Ante*, p. 388.

The preceding part of the same section enacts, that the corporation "shall be" a body corporate, "shall have" a common seal, "shall be" capable of being sued, &c. But when it comes to the most material part of the statute, the words which are to constitute the liabilities and obligations of the corporation, the words used are, "shall and may." There is a great difference in the effect of words, which give a power to do a particular thing; and words which compel the parties to do that particular thing: when a statute says that such things shall be done, and as to others gives the parties a power to do them, "shall and may" appear to be sometimes imperative, and sometimes giving authority only. But if it were meant by the statute, that "shall and may" should have the same effect as the words "shall be," "shall have," in the preceding part of the same section, the word "shall" would in all probability have been used alone. The words being different, the inference is that the meaning is different; and it seems as if there was a settled intention in the act to distinguish what the corporation were bound to do, from what they have authority to do. In the preamble of the Bond Act, 29th Geo. II. c. 9., there is the following passage: "Whereas doubts have arisen amongst the creditors of the said corporation concerning the securities they now have for their respective debts, by reason that the said corporation have it in their power," "either to tax such parts of the 95,000 acres as lie within the Middle and South Levels, with very small taxes, or not to tax them at all." *Ante*, p. 638. This is an express legislative construction of the effect of the words "shall and may;" and under this construction they are words of authority, and not imperative, whereby the corporation

can be compelled to pay a tax, beyond what the governor, bailiffs, and conservators think it their duty to impose. The preamble of the North Level Act, 27th Geo. II. c. 19. states it as a power given to the corporation, *Ante*, p. 527; and section 2. of the Bond Act enacts that it shall be lawful for the corporation to tax the adventurers' lands in the Middle and South Levels, with any further tax "the governor, bailiffs, and conservators shall judge necessary, in the same manner as they might have done before the making of this act." *Ante*, p. 639.

If what has been stated is not sufficient to prove that the words "shall and may" are not absolutely imperative, there are other modes of construction which may be adopted. There is no part of the statute which defines the kind or degree of support, maintenance, and preservation intended by the words under consideration. The preamble recites and adopts the Lynn Law, which was a contract to make the lands in the level summer lands. It recites that works were made according to that contract, and then states the object of the act to be the preservation of the same. Even the preamble does not define the degree of preservation; but having adopted the contract of the Lynn Law, it is there expressed that the fens are to be so preserved, as that they shall be summer lands except in case of overflowings by sudden waters. The words under consideration appear to the committee to have an immediate reference to the preamble; and if the preamble, by its adoption of the Lynn Law, has so limited the degree of preservation, that is, the kind and degree of support, maintenance, and preservation required by the statute itself; when the adventurers had completed the works of drainage, and had obtained possession of the 95,000 acres of land, under a contract to preserve the same so drained, that became a lasting obligation: and the words of a statute adopting that contract, and confirming that obligation by the words



"shall and may," might so far be held to be imperative. If the contract be imperative, it is reasonable that the statute adopting it should be equally imperative and binding. Under this construction the liability of the corporation would be the preservation of the works made at the time the statute passed, so as to keep the fens summer lands, sudden overflowings or inevitable accidents only excepted; and this appears to the committee the utmost length to which that liability can now be extended. Whatever may be the amount of the charges which this limited obligation may require, to that extent the corporation may be bound to tax the 95,000 acres, whether it amount to the full yearly value of the whole of those lands or not. But this limited obligation is very different to the general obligation which has been contended for, that the corporation are bound to do every thing the perfect drainage of the country may require. It is very different in its object, and in the extent of the works that would be necessary. It is impossible to foretell the expenses this larger obligation would incur. They might exceed the full yearly value of the whole of the 95,000 acres. But it is the nature of the obligation, the degree of preservation, which is the object of the present enquiry; and if the limited obligation exists, that puts a negative upon the larger, for they are incompatible with each other, and both of them cannot have effect.

Admitting that under the words "shall and may," thus used, a power is given to the corporation, which they may either use or not, as they please; admitting that the statute leaves the liabilities of the adventurers exactly as they were, and as if no such statute as the 15th Car. II. had passed, then what would be the liabilities of the corporation? Under the Lynn Law the adventurers took the 95,000 acres upon certain conditions, and they may be now bound to fulfil those conditions. By the effect of that law, and without any reference to the statute, those

conditions may constitute the present liabilities of the corporation; and then the liabilities of the corporation would be exactly what are described above,—to keep the fens summer lands, sudden overflowings or inevitable accidents only excepted.

The power of making new works creates no difference as to the liabilities of the board. The words are clearly authoritative only, and not imperative. They give the corporation a power, but do not create an obligation; and they have consequently no bearing on the question under consideration.

If the corporation had been bound under all circumstances, to have done every thing the perfect drainage of the level would have required, the corporation would have been bound to have made all the mills and interior drains and works, throughout the whole level.—The necessity of draining by mills was very soon ascertained; but the committee have not found that any attempt was at any time made to subject the corporation to the expense of making or supporting them. No single farm can be drained without ditches, and yet no person is to be found, who will seriously contend that the 15th Car. II. compels the corporation to make or maintain those ditches. The Lynn Law says, The owners shall divide and sever their lands by such sufficient partition dikes and fences as shall be necessary to convey the rain water to the great drains; *Ante*, p. 104. This is not altered by the 15th Car. II. and seems to be the foundation of the general usage of the country as to their interior works. The committee believe that this usage has been general and uniform from the time of passing the act, and that it shews the general opinion that for such works the corporation was not liable; and that consequently the corporation were not bound to do every thing the perfect drainage of the country would require.—When mills for drainage were first erected, they were considered as occasioning an in-

jury to the general drainage by creating a current across the course of the rivers, and by throwing into them great quantities of mud. It was frequently made a question before the corporation, whether the owners should not be prevented from having mills, or, if they had them, that they should be so placed as not to injure the corporation drains. Without mills it had become impossible to drain; and if the corporation had been bound to have built them, the question before the corporation would have been very different. Section 50 enacts that the corporation shall not be answerable for any loss or damage that may happen from breaches of banks. *Ante*, p. 422. The danger of breaches of banks in times of flood is almost the only danger that now remains. In every country and district it is the great object to be secure against that danger.—It would seem that when the 15th Car. II. was obtained, it was thought unavoidable. The corporation are not bound to prevent or remedy the danger of such an occurrence, and they are consequently not bound to do every thing the perfect drainage and security of the country now requires.

Section 13 enacts that the “corporation shall and may, from time to time, erect any new works within the said Great Level, or without the said Great Level, for conveying the waters of the said Great Level by convenient outfalls to the sea.” *Ante*, p. 396.

The words of this section fall within the observations already made, both as to the effect of the words “shall and may,” and as to the new and old works. They give the corporation a power within or beyond the Level. They give them a power that reaches the outfalls, the most essential of all works of drainage; but they in no respect alter the effect of the words in the second section, upon which the liability of the corporation depends.

Section 4 enacts that 2,000 acres, vested in the Duke of Portland, shall be holden “subject never-

theless with the residue of the 95,000 acres in equal proportions, to all taxes and charges necessary and conducing to the preservation of the said Great Level from drowning." *Ante*, p. 389.

These words appear intended as a description of the liabilities contained in the second section. They are equally general, and leave the degree of preservation equally undefined. The preamble and the second section mention preservation generally, or that the level is to be preserved drained according to the Lynn Law; and preserved from drowning appears to the committee to be equal in effect to preserved drained, and to make no difference in the construction of the statute. They have the same reference to the preamble, and mean that the fens are to be preserved from drowning, in the manner prescribed by the Lynn Law.

The adventurers under the Lynn Law expended very large sums of money in carrying their contract into execution;—it is said 100,000*l.* *Verm. Disc.* 2. When Charles the First became the undertaker, the old adventurers were very much oppressed, and many of them ruined by the speculation. When the pretended act was obtained many of the old adventurers were superseded by new ones, and the losses upon the first speculation were very much increased. By the time the 15th Car. II. was obtained, the old and new adventurers appear to have expended between five and six hundred thousand pounds upon the works of the level; *Dodson's Design*, 12.—The committee have no doubt, but that the money then expended much exceeded the full value at the time of the fee simple of the whole of the 95,000 acres of land, the adventurers had taken as their recompense for the undertaking. These circumstances were capable of proof in 1663, when the 15th Car. II. was obtained; and this was perhaps the reason why the full obligations of the pretended act were not then adopted and fixed upon the adventurers.



If the speculation was worth more than 95,000 acres to King Charles the First, it was so to the adventurers; and there appears to be a hardship in the pretended act, in obliging the adventurers to make the fens winter lands, when their contract was to make them summer lands only; or, if by that act the increased obligation was fixed upon them, they ought to have had a recompense exceeding the 95,000 acres. The inference from the circumstances as they now appear is, that the 95,000 acres were not considered as more than equivalent to the works to be executed and the risk to be incurred. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden had agreed to contract for 90,000 acres; and afterwards refused to proceed unless he had 95,000. *Ante*, p. 101. In 1622 King James the First proposed to become the undertaker, and he was to have 120,000 acres. *Ante*, p. 99. Under the Waldersea Drainage, which took place in 1607, the adventurers received as a recompense two thirds of the whole of the lands drained. The adventurers of Deeping Fen, the drainage of which took place about the year 1660, had one third by their original contract, which was afterwards increased to one half; but the Bedford Level adventurers had only one third; and whatever was at first the opinion, the result has proved, that it was a most disadvantageous bargain for the adventurers. If the liabilities of the corporation went the full length of fixing upon the adventurers every expense the perfect drainage of the level would require, and of making their lands chargeable to the last farthing of their present yearly value, it would be a case of extreme hardship and oppression. When the full value of the fee simple of the lands taken by the adventurers, was exhausted by the works for the preservation of the remaining two third parts, value was received for the value given; and, considering the causes which obstructed, and the powers which overbore the first adventurers, more could not in justice be required, whatever might

be the nature of the contract. In the construction of a contract that requires the value again and again, the words would be examined with the greatest exactness; and nothing but the most express stipulations would under such circumstances be held to be obligatory. If it be open to any doubt whether the construction of the words of the contract under the Lynn Law, and of the 15th Car. II. inclined to a limited obligation, or to the great obligation which would swallow up the whole of the lands, the justice of the case would turn the scale in favour of the limited obligation; but in the judgment of the committee there is no such doubt. It is clearly an obligation limited and confined by the degree of preservation and drainage required by the Lynn Law.

The committee, in stating the result of the consideration they have given the subject, have mentioned the 95,000 acres generally,—but twelve thousand acres out of the 95,000 acres were taken by the King; and by the 15th Car. II. the tax upon these 12,000 acres cannot exceed two shillings an acre; *Ante*, p. 424: unless they are made liable to a further tax by the Bond Act: and by the first North Level Act, 27th Geo. II. c. 19. the tax upon the adventurers' lands in the North Level cannot exceed a tax and a quarter, and so in proportion upon the part of the 12,000 acres which lies in the North Level; *Ante*, p. 546; whatever may be the amount of the tax to which the remainder of the 95,000 acres may be subject.

Considerable difficulties arose as to the mode of taxing the 95,000 acres; and in 1668 an act was passed called the Tax Act, 20th Car. II. and under that act the 83,000 acres remaining to the adventurers after the 12,000 acres were given to the King, are divided into eleven different sorts, according to the value of each in 1668; and when what is called a single tax is laid, the worst sort, according to the value in 1668, pays four-

pence an acre, the second sort eightpence, and so on, the eleventh sort paying three shillings and fourpence. This assortment and estimate is fixed by the Tax Act; and whatever alterations have taken place in the value of the lands, no alteration can be made in the mode of taxation. The effect of this has been, that some of the lands that are now of inferior quality, are of the second, third, fourth, or higher sort, and whatever tax the better lands might be able to pay, the inferior lands cannot bear beyond what their value will enable the owners to pay. The payment of the tax may be enforced by the sale of the lands; but when they are sold they must be subject to the future taxes, and, if the amount exceeded the value of the inferior lands, no buyers can be found. The corporation have sometimes had many thousand acres in their own hands,—at one time 18,000 acres, which could not be sold, because they were not worth the taxes, and when in their hands occasioned the loss of a part or the whole of the taxes. At times the armor roll has contained many thousand acres (it is said upwards of 20,000 acres in one year) for sale, for nonpayment of the taxes. If the system of increasing the tax upon the good lands, and losing the tax upon the inferior, were pursued, their whole value would soon be exhausted, and the existence of the tax at an end. It does not appear to the committee to have been a question before the corporation, to what extent they ought to have pushed the increase of the tax, or to what extent they were bound to do it. If they had advanced it, they might frequently have suffered more by the loss upon the inferior lands, than they could have gained from the better lands; and it is impossible to tax one without the other, or to alter the sorts and degrees established by the Tax Act. Under these circumstances a limit has been set to the liabilities of the corporation, for they could not be obliged to expend more than they could raise.

The Tax Act will always have a similar effect, and will always prevent the adventurers' land from being taxed beyond a limited point. But the subject the committee have endeavoured to consider and explain is the general liability of the corporation, arising out of the Lynn Law, and the 15th Car. II.; and that liability cannot be exceeded, in whatever degree it may fall short of the practical limitation created by the operation of the Tax Act.

EARDLEY.

GEO. JENYNS.

THOS. PAGE.

RD. GREAVES TOWNLEY.

WILLIAM ADAM.

J. THURLOW DERING.

GEO. MAXWELL.

ROBERT BEVILL.

At a Board held at the Fen Office on Friday the 18th day of May, 1810, the above Report was received, approved, and ordered to be printed.

WM. SAFFERY, Register.





## No. XXXII.

## A LIST

OF THE SEVERAL

## ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

(PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)

CONNECTED WITH

## THE GREAT LEVEL OF THE FENS

CALLED

## BEDFORD LEVEL,

*With those Clauses which relate specifically to the Corporation.*

† Marked thus are Public General Acts.

\*..... Local and Personal Acts.

‡..... Private Acts.

## GENERAL ACTS.

*As to the Corporation.*

† General Drainage Act, 43 Eliz. c. 11.

The pretended Act passed during the Commonwealth.

† 15 Car. 2. c. 17.—Foundation Act.

† 20 Car. 2. c. 8.—Tax Act.

† 1 Jac. 2. c. 21.—Repeal of General Inclosure Clause in 15 Car. 2.

† 29 Geo. 2. c. 9.—First Bond Act.

† 12 Geo. 3. c. 9.—Second Bond Act.

† 24 Geo. 2. c. 23.—First Stile Act.

† 25 Geo. 2. c. 30.—Second Stile Act.

† 23 Geo. 3. c. 25.—Turf Act.

N. B. The above are fully inserted in the foregoing Appendix

N. B. By a standing order of the board, all acts of Parliament for drainage, bridges, roads, ports, canals, and inclosure, &amp;c.

for other matters affecting, in any degree, the Bedford Level, are to contain a clause reserving the entirety of the rights and powers of the Bedford Level Corporation.

*Rivers.*

Brandon.—† 22 Car. 2. c. 7.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 166.

Cam.—† 1 Ann Stat. 2. c. 11.

\* 53 Geo. c. 214.

Ouze.—† 6 Geo. 1. c. 29.

This act contains the following clause as to the corporation :

“ And for the better government, use, and regulation of the said new stanch or new work so to be erected, as aforesaid, according to the intent and meaning of this act ; and for prevention of any mischiefs and inconveniences which may ensue to the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, and the navigation of the river Ouse, and other the navigations and works of draining within the said Great Level, as well from inundations in times of floods, as scarcity and want of water in dry seasons, or any other emergencies ; and also for the prevention of any abuses or ill uses to be made of the said stanch and work, and the powers and authorities hereby given to the said Henry Ashley, his heirs and assigns ; and for the more effectual improving and preserving the navigation of the said river from the town of St. Ives, to the port of Lynn, and of the waters within the same, from being diverted out of the natural current of the said river : Be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that six of the justices of the peace for the said county of Huntingdon for the time being, to be yearly named and appointed at the general quarter sessions of the peace held for the said county next after Easter, and a like number of the commissioners of sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, to be yearly appointed by the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, at their meeting in April, shall be and they are hereby constituted commissioners, as well for the government, use, and regulation of the said stanch and new work, as for the prevention of the mischiefs and inconveniences before mentioned, and preservation of the navigation and waters of the said river, as aforesaid ; and the said commissioners, or any five or more of them, of which number two at least to be of the number appointed by the said justices for the said county of Huntingdon, and not less than two of the number appointed by the commissioners of sewers within the said Great Level, shall and may, from time to time, assemble and meet together, when, where, and as often as they shall see occasion ; and the major part of them so assembled, shall make

such orders and decrees, as well for the due regulation as government of the said stretch, according to the intent and meaning of this act, as for the prevention of the said mischief and inconveniences and preservation of the said navigation and river, and waters therein, and otherwise touching the premisses and by and under such reasonable pains and penalties, as them shall seem meet and convenient; and shall enforce the due execution of the same by all such lawful ways and means as the said commissioners of sewers within the said Bedford Level, or any other commissioners of sewers, by force and virtue of any powers and authorities to them given, or by any law now in force relating to commissioners of sewers, can or may lawfully do; the first meeting of the said commissioners to be at the said town of Saint Ives in the said county of Huntingdon

† 30 Geo. 3. c. 83.

By this act the corporation are empowered to nominate and appoint, at their general annual April meeting, three persons to be commissioners, for one year only, from the day of such meeting, provided that such nomination or appointment shall be made under their common seal, and certified by their register to the clerk of the said commissioners, within fourteen days after making the same.

Ken Brink.—† 35 Geo. 3. c. 77.

By this act the commissioners for drainage are compelled to cause gauges to be placed upon certain sluices and bridges, to erect an additional pair of gates at Denver Sluice, and to erect staunches, pound locks, or pen sluices at certain places there mentioned, and such other locks, staunches, sluices or other works as should be directed by the engineers appointed by act.

And the commissioners for drainage are to vary, alter and regulate the said gauges, staunches, pound locks or pen sluices in such manner as shall, from time to time, be directed by the engineers; one to be appointed by the corporation of Bedford Level and by the commissioners of drainage jointly; one by the commissioners for navigation; and the third by the two engineers: which ebb doors, staunches, pound locks or sluices shall be kept and regulated under the management and direction of such person or persons as shall from time to time be appointed by the corporation of Bedford Level, (whose salary, not exceeding 20*l*, is to be paid by the commissioners of drainage) but those sluices are to be shut at certain times, on a penalty; and upon every neglect or refusal of the sluice keepers so to do, then it shall be lawful for any two or more commissioners for navigation assembled at such sluice, to cause the same to be shut.

This act also contains the following clause as to the corporation :

“ And whereas it is expedient for the improvement of the drainage and navigation intended to be improved by virtue of this act, that the river called the New Bedford or Hundred Feet River, from Earith to Denver Sluice, now in the charge of the corporation of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, and also the river Ouze from Denver Sluice aforesaid to Eau Brink, should be scoured, cleansed, and deepened in a regular and uniform manner, consistent with the depth of the intended new river or cut, and the said Bedford Level corporation have consented and agreed to do and perform the said work from Earith to Denver Sluice ; Be it therefore further enacted, That the said corporation of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this act, scour, cleanse, and deepen, or cause to be scoured, cleansed, and deepened the said river called the New Bedford or Hundred Feet River, from Earith to Denver Sluice aforesaid, in a regular and uniform manner, consistent with the depth of the said intended new river or cut, and shall cause all obstructions therein to be removed as far as may be consistent with the safety of the banks and of the bridges across the same ; and that the said commissioners for drainage shall, as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this act, scour, cleanse, and deepen, or cause to be scoured, cleansed, and deepened, the said river Ouze from Denver Sluice to the place near Eau Brink aforesaid, where the said intended new river or cut is to branch out therefrom, and that the same shall be done on a regular section, to the satisfaction of the aforesaid Sir Thomas Hyde Page and Robert Mylne, or such other engineers as aforesaid, and that all obstructions therein shall be removed as far as may be consistent with the safety of the banks and of the bridges across the same.”

To compel the Bedford Level corporation to scour out the Hundred Feet River.

† 36 Geo. 3. c. 33.

\* 45 Geo. 3. c. 72.

\* 56 Geo. 3. c. 88.

\* 58 Geo. 3. c. 48.

\* 59 Geo. 3. c. 79.

\* 2 Geo. 4. c. 74.

Nene to Peterborough.

† 12 Ann Stat. 2. c. 7.

† 11 Geo. 1. c. 19.

† 34 Geo. 3. c. 85.

Nene from Peterborough through March, &c. to Salter's Lode.



† 27 Geo. 2. c. 12.

This act is fully inserted in the foregoing Appendix.

### *Canals.*

Wisbech.—† 34 Geo. 3. c. 92.

This act contains the following very important provisions:—

The canal company are compelled to make pound locks, pointing and ebb doors at Outwell, Popham's Eau and Salter's Lode, and gauges to be fixed thereon, by engineers to be appointed by the Bedford Level corporation and the canal company, such locks and doors to be under the direction of a person appointed by the Bedford Level corporation (whose salary, not exceeding 20*l.*, is to be paid by the company), but to be shut at certain times under a penalty, and upon refusal the committee of the company to have power to shut them. In case either party neglects to appoint an engineer, then the other to appoint both.

Also if the waters of the river Nene are above the high water mark of the engineer's gauges, then it shall be lawful for the company to run the water through the canal into the Wisbech River.

Also power for the company to drain lands of any bodies politic or corporate, or commissioners of districts through the canal to sea, but not to raise the waters in the canal above the soil of the adjacent lands so as to injure the same.

The rights of the corporation and river Nene Commissioners are reserved "except such rights, powers, and authorities as are by this act expressly altered or taken away."

Stort and Cambridge.—\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 141.

\* 54 Geo. 3. c. 163.

These acts have never been carried into effect for want of funds. The first contains several important regulations as to the works of the corporation which would have been affected by making the canal.

### *Ports.*

† Lynn.—13 Geo. 3. c. 30.

\* Wisbech.—50 Geo. 3. c. 206.

† Boston.—16 Geo. 3. c. 23.

\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 105.

### *Roads.*

Cambridge to Ely and Littleport, Downham, Soham, Haddenham, Mepal, &c.

† 3 Geo. 3. c. 36.

† 5 Geo. 3. c. 79.

† 10 Geo. 3. c. 97.

\* 44 Geo. 3. c. 70.

\* 5 Geo. 4. c. 60.

This last act repeals all the foregoing acts, and contains the following clauses as to the corporation, and also an exemption from toll, "for any timber, wood, iron, stone, earth, bricks, silt, or other materials, or any implements or tolls to be used for the purposes of supporting any of the works of drainage already made and maintained, or hereafter to be made and maintained at the expence of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level."

"LV.—And whereas part of the road within the said north district passes over part of the east bank of the river Ouze, between Scottings Ferry and Brandon Creek Bridge, which bank was erected by the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, and has ever since its erection been supported and maintained at the expence of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and of the commissioners of a certain district protected by the said bank, called Burnt Fen First District, and the support of the said bank is of the utmost consequence, not only to the said district, but to many thousand acres of rich and valuable land within the said Great Level, which are likewise protected thereby; and it is therefore necessary that provision should be made for preventing the said bank from being worn down and lowered by the frequent passing of horses and carriages thereon; Be it therefore enacted, That during the continuance of this act the said bank from Scottings Ferry to Brandon Creek Bridge shall be constantly supported and maintained by the trustees of the said North District, and the expences attending the same shall be paid and defrayed out of the tolls arising within the said district by virtue of this act, so that the seat or foundation of the said bank be never less than the present seat or foundation thereof, and that the height thereof be never less than the present height thereof; and in case it shall at any time during the continuance of this act happen that either the seat or the height of the said bank shall be less than they are hereby respectively directed to be, that then, on notice in writing to be given to the clerk of the said last-mentioned trustees, by the registrar, superintendant, or other officer of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, they the said last-mentioned trustees shall give immediate orders to amend and make up the said bank to the dimensions and height aforesaid; and on failure thereof for the space of fourteen days after such notice, it shall be lawful for such registrar, superintendant, or other officer of

For keeping up  
the east bank of  
the Ouze.

the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, to cause the said bank to be made of the dimension and height aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for such registrar to draw upon the then treasurer to the said last-mentioned trustees for the expences which shall have been incurred in doing such work, which expences such treasurer is hereby required to pay out of any monies which shall then be in his hands; and in case there shall not then be sufficient monies in his hands to answer such expences, then such treasurer is hereby required to pay the same, or so much thereof as the monies then in hand will not extend to pay, out of the first monies which shall come to his hands from tolls, or otherwise, by virtue of this act, or of the said recited acts of the third and fourth years of the reign of his said present Majesty, or any or either of them, in preference to any other charge whatsoever upon such treasurer, or upon such last-mentioned trustees, and that such treasurer shall be allowed what he shall so pay, in his account with the said last-mentioned trustees.

Provisions in case of imminent danger of a breach of the said bank from sudden floods.

“LVI.—And whereas a breach may happen in the said bank within the limits aforesaid, by sudden land-floods, and it is necessary to give power for the timely prevention of the danger which may otherwise arise therefrom; Be it therefore further enacted, That when and as often as the said bank shall or may happen to be endangered by floods, it shall be lawful for the registrar, superintendant, or other officer of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, instantly to cause such means to be used, and procure such assistance as may be necessary, not only for securing the said bank from any breach, slip or damage, but also for instantly repairing and amending such bank in case any such breach, slip or damage shall have taken place; and it shall be lawful for such registrar to draw upon such last-mentioned treasurer for the expences which shall have been incurred in taking such means, and providing such assistance as last aforesaid, which expences such treasurer is hereby required to pay out of any monies which shall be in his hands; and in case there shall not then be sufficient monies in the hands of such treasurer to answer such expences, then he is hereby required to pay the same, or so much thereof, as the monies then in his hands will not extend to pay, out of the first monies which shall come to his hands from tolls, or otherwise, by virtue of this act, or of the said recited acts of the third and fourth years of the reign of his said present Majesty, or any or either of them, and in preference to any other charge whatsoever upon such treasurer, or upon such last-mentioned trustees, and that such treasurer shall be allowed what he shall so pay in his account with the said last-mentioned trustees.”

Power reserved to the Bedford Level corpora-

“LX.—And whereas the part of the said branch road in the said north-west district, from the said Wear Dike at the end of



Bates's Droveway to the said floating bridge, passes along or adjoins the back foreland of the barrier or great bank of the said One Hundred-feet River, and across the same bank down to the water; and the said bank, foreland and spaces between the said river and the said wear dike are works of the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, called the Bedford Level, made and maintained for the preservation of the adjoining part of the said Great Level from inundation, and are the property and freehold of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and over which there is now no public right of way; Be it therefore further enacted, That the said part of the said road across the said bank, and the slopes thereof on both sides, shall be made and maintained by the said trustees of the said last-mentioned district, in such manner as that the said bank where the said road crosses it shall be at all times of sufficient strength and height to secure the same from the danger of breaking or overflowing, and shall be made, continued and preserved in such form as shall not obstruct the free passage of the waters of the said One Hundred-feet River, or alter or affect the course thereof, and if at any time or times the said part of the said bank, where the said road crosses it, shall be considered by the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said Bedford Level corporation, or any five or more of them, whereof the governor or bailiffs, or any of them, be two, not of sufficient strength or height, or if the slope of the said road on the river side of the said bank, down to the water, and where the said floating bridge meets the said road, be made, altered or continued in such a form, as shall in the judgment of the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid, prejudice, alter, turn or obstruct, or be likely to prejudice, alter, turn or obstruct the said course of the waters in the said One Hundred-feet River, or within the said banks thereof, then and in any or either of the said cases the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid, are hereby authorized and empowered to strengthen and heighten the said part of the said bank where the said road crosses the same, and to alter and make the said slope on the river side of the said bank down to the water, in such manner and form as they may from time to time order and direct, and the charges and expences of what shall from time to time be done in pursuance of the power and authority hereby given to the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid, shall be paid by the treasurer of the said trustees to the receiver of the said corporation, at his dwelling-house or office, within twenty-one days after demand thereof in writing made by the said receiver, specifying the amount thereof and the purpose for which it was expended, unless before the ex-

tion for the protection of the bank of the One Hundred Feet River.



piration of such twenty-one days any three or more of the said last-mentioned trustees, or their treasurer or clerk for the time being, shall object to the amount of such charges and expences and shall deliver a statement in writing of such objections to the said receiver, and shall at the same time tender to such receiver so much money as they the said trustees shall admit to be due in respect of such charges and expences, and unless such tender shall be accepted by the said receiver, or unless any three or more of the said trustees, or their said treasurer or clerk, shall within such twenty-one days give notice in writing to the said receiver of the intention of the said trustees to appeal to the justices of the peace acting for the limit wherein such charges and expences shall have been incurred, against the amount thereof, at their next general quarter sessions of the peace (such notice to be given at least ten days before such general quarter sessions,) in which case it shall be lawful for the said justices, at their said general quarter sessions of the peace assembled, and they are hereby required, on proof of the service of such notice, to hear, adjudge and finally determine the amount of such charges and expences, and to award such costs in the matter to the parties as they shall seem meet; and in case the amount of such charges, expences and costs (if any such costs shall have been awarded against the appellant or appellants) shall not be paid to the said receiver at his house or office aforesaid within ten days after demand thereof in writing made by the said receiver, or in case such appellant or appellants shall not prosecute such appeal, the said receiver is hereby authorized and empowered to take, possess and enter upon any of the tollhouses and gates within the said north-west district of the said road; and place and direct any person or persons he may appoint to receive and collect the tolls there to be received until the sum so demanded shall be paid, together with all the expences incident to such refusal, entry and collection; such person and persons so receiving and collecting the said tolls to have the same power of taking, collecting and recovering the same as any of the toll-keepers appointed by the said trustees.

Power reserved  
to the Bedford  
Level corpora-  
tion officers  
during high  
floods.

“ LXI.— And be it further enacted, That if during any high flood, or the immediate expectation thereof, the said part of the said bank where the said road crosses it, shall in the judgment of the superintendant or officer of the said Bedford Level corporation, having the care of the said bank, be insecure, or not of sufficient height or strength, such superintendant or officer is hereby authorized and empowered to strengthen and heighten the said part of the said bank, so as to make the same secure for the time; and the charges and expences for what shall be so done shall be paid by the said trustees, and recovered, if not paid on demand thereof made by such receiver as aforesaid, in the same manner as is above directed, as to the charges of wh

may be done to secure the said part of the said bank under the direction of the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid.

“ LXII.—And whereas the part of the said bank of the said One Hundred-feet River, from the end of Bates's Drove-way to the said floating bridge, might be rendered insecure, if cuts, drains or tunnels were improperly made on any part of the land between the said bank and the said Wear Dike; Be it therefore further enacted, That if any cut, drain, tunnel or other work shall at any time or times be there made by the said trustees, which in the judgment of the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid, shall render the said bank insecure, or occasion or be likely to occasion soakage through the same, the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any five or more of them as aforesaid, are hereby authorized and empowered to fill up the same, and to take up such tunnels and make good the places from whence the same were taken, and the charges and expences thereby incurred shall be paid by the said trustees, and the same shall be demanded and recovered in the same manner as is above directed, as to other charges and expences to be paid by the said trustees to the said receiver of the said corporation.”

Cuts, drains, and tunnels between the Wear Dike and the One Hundred Feet River.

St. Ives to Chatteris Ferry.

† 1 Geo. 2. stat. 2. c. 4.

† 14 Geo. 2. c. 14.

† 5 Geo. 3. c. 53.

\* 38 Geo. 3. c. 5.

\* 1 Geo. 4. c. 79.

March to Wisbech.

† 3 Geo. 2. c. 24.

† 22 Geo. 2. c. 34.

Chatteris Ferry to Wisbech, Tyd, and Downham.

† 5 Geo. 3. c. 83.

† 7 Geo. 3. c. 100.

† 26 Geo. 3. c. 133.

\* 47 Geo. 3. sess. 2. c. 52.

\* 9 Geo. 4. c. 73.

The last act repeals all the foregoing acts, and contains the following clauses as to the corporation, and also an exemption from toll, for any beast drawing any vessel or carriage carrying, or going empty to carry, or returning empty from carrying, any materials or implements, or tools, for maintaining or repairing any of the corporation banks, or drawing any machine for deepening, roding, or cleansing any river or drain adjoining or near the said roads, or for any beast ridden by any officer or

Certain bridges to be repaired under the direction of the Bedford Level corporation.

servant of the Bedford Level corporation, when actually employed in the business of the said corporation.

“ And whereas the said road between the towns of Chatteris and Wisbech Saint Peter's aforesaid is carried over the bridge called Carter's Bridge, over Vermuyden's Drain or the Forty Feet, over a bridge called Studbridge in Studbridge Drove, the bridge over Moor's Drain or the Twenty Feet, and the bridge over Bevill's Leam, all which bridges formerly belonged to and were repaired by the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, but under the provisions of the said acts hereby repealed have been maintained and repaired at the expence of the said trustees : Be it enacted, That from the commencement of this act and thenceforth during the continuance thereof, all the said bridges shall be maintained and repaired under the direction and inspection of the corporation officers in whose district the said bridges are situate, so often as shall be necessary, at the sole expence of the trustees of this act, out of the tolls that shall be raised thereby ; and if the said trustees shall neglect or refuse to repair any of the said bridges being out of repair for the space of ten days after notice given to their clerk in writing specifying the particular bridge which wants repair, such notice to be given under the hand of the officer of the Bedford Level corporation for the time being within whose district the said bridge so wanting repair shall be situate, and left with the collector of the toll-gate which shall be nearest to the said bridge so wanting to be repaired, and in case there shall be two toll-gates at equal distances from the said bridge then with either of the collectors of the said tolls at either of the said gates, that then it shall be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs and conservators of the said corporation, or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor, bailiffs or any of them to be two, forthwith to direct the repair thereof, and so soon as the same shall be repaired the said governor or bailiffs and conservators or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs or any of them to be two, to order their receiver-general for the time being to draw on the collector of the tolls at the gate where the said notice was left, for the money laid out and expended by their officer in the repair of any such bridge or bridges, who shall out of the first monies that shall come to his hands by the said tolls after the said draft shall be so to him presented, pay and satisfy the same, which draft so paid shall afterwards be allowed in his account as fully as if the same had been by him paid by order of the said trustees, the said tolls always to be liable and applicable to the payment of the said drafts prior to any charge on the same.

As to Tong's Drain bridge.

“ And whereas the said road between the town of Wisbech Saint Peter's and Downham Bridge aforesaid is carried over the bridge erected over the Tong's Drain at the entrance of the said

drain into Well Creek: Be it therefore further enacted, That from the commencement of this act and thenceforth during the continuance thereof, the road over the said bridge, and also the arch of such bridge under the said road from the top of the springing walls of the said arch, together with the parapets of the same bridge, shall also be maintained and repaired so often as shall be necessary, at the expence of the trustees for executing this act, out of the tolls to be raised thereby under such and the like direction and superintendence, on such and the like notices, and with such and the like provisions in all respects for the repairs thereof as are hereinbefore mentioned and contained with respect to the repairs of the said bridges called Carter's Bridge and Stud Bridge, and the said bridges over Moor's Drain or the Twenty Feet and Bevill's Leam, and in no other manner nor by any other person or persons whomsoever."

"And whereas by an agreement bearing date the twenty-second day of October one thousand seven hundred and fifty, and made between the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level and the land-owners of Waldersey, it was mutually agreed that a certain piece of bank extending from a certain place formerly called or known by the name of Baldwyn's and since Hamlyn's Gull, unto a house or site of a house formerly called Tower House, being the bank or part of the bank of Waldersey, containing by estimation about two miles, should for ever thereafter at all times be kept supported and maintained at the joint expence of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and the said land-owners of Waldersey: And whereas in pursuance of the said agreement the said bank was from the time of the date and execution of the said agreement until the passing of the said recited act in the fifth year of the reign of his said late Majesty King George the Third, supported at the joint expence of the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and the said land-owners of Waldersey: And whereas by the provisions contained in the said recited act of the fifth year of the reign of his late Majesty the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and the said land-owners of Waldersey were during the continuance of the same act entirely exonerated from the charge and burden of supporting the said bank: And whereas part of the said roads directed by the said recited acts and by this act to be repaired passes directly over the said piece of bank from one end thereof to the other: And whereas by the said recited act passed in the seventh year of the reign of his said late majesty it was enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty should from and after the twenty-fifth day of March in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven, and during the continuance of that act, pay unto the trustees for putting in execution the said recited act of the fifth year of his said late majesty's reign the yearly sum of twenty pounds on the days and

Respecting the repairs of Waldersey bank.



times in the year in the said now reciting act in that behalf mentioned, and that the owners for the time being of such certain lands in Waldersey as had contributed to the repairs of the said bank should in like manner annually pay the sum of twenty pounds, which respective sums of money should by the said trustees be applied towards the support and maintenance of the said bank and to no other purpose whatsoever : and whereas the said two several annual sums of twenty pounds each were from the time of the passing of the said recited act in the seventh year of the reign of his said late majesty and until the passing of the said recited act in the forty-seventh year of the reign of his said late majesty yearly paid to the said trustees by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and by the said land-owners in Waldersey respectively : and whereas by the provisions of the said recited act passed in the forty-seventh year of the reign of his said late majesty, the said two several yearly sums of twenty pounds each were increased to the yearly sums of thirty pounds each, and the said several yearly sums of thirty pounds each have been since annually paid by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and the said land-owners of Waldersey to the said trustees, and all the same several yearly sums of twenty pounds and thirty pounds each (together with divers other sums of money to a considerable amount out of the funds of the said trustees) have been wholly expended in and towards the support and maintenance of the said bank and to no other purpose : and whereas by reason of the great and heavy expences constantly attendant upon the support and maintenance of the said bank, it is expedient that the said two several yearly payments of thirty pounds each should continue to be paid by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty and by the said land-owners of Waldersey respectively to the trustees for executing this act : Be it therefore enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level and the owners for the time being of the lands in Waldersey, shall severally during the continuance of this act raise and pay the respective sums of money following, *videlicet*, the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty shall pay or cause to be paid unto the said trustees for executing this act or to their treasurer for the time being, the yearly sum of thirty pounds, which sum shall be paid half-yearly on the feast days of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, by equal portions in every year, the first payment thereof to begin and be made upon the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel now next ensuing ; and that the owners for the time being of the lands in Waldersey shall in like manner pay or cause to be paid unto the said trustees for executing this act or to their treasurer for the time being, the yearly sum of thirty pounds, which respective sums of money shall by the said trustees for executing this act be applied

The Bedford Level corporation to contribute 30*l.* annually ;

and the owners of lands in Waldersey the like sum of 30*l.* annually towards the support of Waldersey bank.

towards the support and maintenance of the said bank from Hamlyn's Gull to Tower House aforesaid and to no other purpose whatsoever; and in case the said yearly sum of thirty pounds hereby directed to be paid by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, or any part thereof, shall be behind and unpaid for the space of fourteen days next after either of the said days hereby appointed for payment thereof, it shall be lawful for the said trustees for executing this act in the name or names of any one or more of them, or in the name of their treasurer for the time being, to recover the arrears so due in an action on the case against the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, in any of his majesty's courts of law or in the Court of Pleas for the isle of Ely; and in case the said yearly sum of thirty pounds hereby directed to be paid by the owners of the said lands in Waldersey, or any part of such last-mentioned sum, shall be behind and unpaid during the time aforesaid, the same shall and may in like manner be recovered of the dikereeve or dikereeves of Waldersey for the time being, which said dikereeve or dikereeves the said owners are hereby authorized and required to appoint annually for the purposes of collecting and paying the said last-mentioned sum of thirty pounds.

"And whereas the support and maintenance of the said bank is at all times of the utmost consequence, not only for the preservation of the lands in Waldersey from inundations and overflowings, but also of a great part of the lands lying in the Great Level of the Fens, which must on every breach or failure of the said bank be greatly overflowed and annoyed with water, to the loss of many thousand acres of rich and valuable lands: Be it therefore further enacted, That from and after the commencement of this act and during the continuance thereof, the said piece of bank from the said place formerly called or known by the name of Baldwyn's and since Hamlyn's Gull, unto the house or site of the house formerly called Tower House, shall be constantly supported and maintained at the charge and expence of the trustees for executing this act, out of the tolls to be collected by virtue of this act (the said trustees receiving annually from the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level called Bedford Level the sum of thirty pounds, and from the said land-owners of Waldersey the like sum of thirty pounds towards the support and maintenance thereof as hereinbefore provided) so that the seat or foundation of the said bank within the limits aforesaid be never less than of the breadth of fifty-one feet, the height of the said bank never less than seventeen feet, and the top of the said bank never less than of the breadth of fifteen feet; and in case it shall at any time happen that the seat or foundation of the said bank be less than of the breadth of fifty-one feet, or the height of the said bank be less than seventeen

Dimensions of  
Waldersey  
bank ascer-  
tained, and to  
be maintained  
by the trustees.



#### APPENDIX.

feet, or the breadth of the said bank on the top thereof be less than fifteen feet, then on notice thereof to be given in writing to the clerk of the said trustees, either under the hand of the officer for the time being of the Bedford Level corporation in whose district the said piece of bank is or shall be situate, or under the hands or hand of the dikereeves or dikereeve for the time being of Waldersey, to be left with the collector of the tolls at the gate nearest to which the said piece of bank is or shall be situate, and in case there are or shall be two toll-gates at equal distances from the said piece of bank, then with either of the collectors of the tolls at either of the said gates, the trustees shall give immediate orders to amend and make up the same according to the dimensions aforesaid, and on failure thereof for the space of ten days then it shall be lawful for the officer of the Bedford Level corporation for the time being, within whose district the said piece of bank is or shall be situate, or the dikereeves or dikereeve for the time being of Waldersey, to set about the repair of the said bank and to make the same equal to the dimensions aforesaid; and so soon as the same shall be repaired it shall be lawful for the said governor, bailiffs and conservators or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiff shall be any of them to be two, in case the same shall have been repaired by the direction of their officer, to order their receiver-general for the time being to draw on the collector of the tolls at the gate where the said notice was left, for the money laid out and expended in the repair thereof; or in case the same shall have been repaired by the direction of the dikereeves or dikereeve of Waldersey, then for the said dikereeves or dikereeve to draw on the collector of the tolls at the gate where the said notice was left, for the money expended in the repair thereof, which collector shall out of the first monies that shall come to his hands by the said tolls after either of the said drafts shall be to him so presented, pay and satisfy the same, which drafts so paid shall afterwards be allowed in his account as fully as if the same had been by him paid by order of the said trustees, the said tolls always to be liable and applicable to the payment of the said drafts prior to any other charge on the same.

Power to the corporation of Bedford Level and Waldersey land-owners to repair Waldersey bank at the costs of the trustees.

"And whereas breaches have frequently happened in the said bank for want of immediate attention to the rise of land floods and timely assistance to preserve and support the said bank, to the drowning of many thousand acres of land; and whereas in case of such accidents there may not be time to give notice to the said trustees of the said danger so as to enable them to defend the said bank against the same: Be it therefore further enacted, That so often as the said bank or any part thereof is so annoyed and endangered by land floods, if the surveyors, agents, or servants of the said trustees do not at the time of such danger appear on the place or places in the said bank so annoyed or

endangered by the said land floods, to defend the same against any breach or slip which may happen in the said bank from the said floods, then it shall be lawful either for the officer for the time being of the said Bedford Level corporation in whose district the said piece of bank is or shall be situate, or for the dike-reeves or dikereeve for the time being of Waldersey, whichever of them shall be first on the place where the danger is, instantly to set about endeavouring to save and secure the said bank from such breach or slip, and if the same cannot be prevented but a breach or gull shall happen in the said bank, then to set about with such assistance as he or they shall think proper stopping or taking the said breach or gull; and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators or any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs to be two, in case the same shall have been endeavoured to have been saved and protected by their officer, or a breach or gull happening the same shall have been by him taken or stopped, shall or may order their receiver general for the time being to draw on the collector of the tolls at the gate nearest to which the said bank shall lie, and in case there are two gates at equal distances from the said bank, then on the collector of either of the said gates, for the money laid out and expended in so endeavouring to save and secure the same, or in taking or stopping such breach or gull, or in case the said piece of bank shall have been endeavoured to be saved and secured by the said dikereeves or dikereeve of Waldersey, or the said breach or gull shall have been taken or stopped by them or him, then the said dikereeves or dikereeve shall draw on the collector of the tolls at the gate nearest to which the said bank shall lie, and in case there are two gates at equal distances from the said bank, then on the collector of either of the said gates, for the money expended in so endeavouring to save and secure the same or in taking or stopping the said breach or gull, which collector shall out of the first monies that shall come to his hands by the said tolls after either of the said drafts so drawn either by the receiver-general to the said governor, bailiffs and conservators or by the dikereeves or dikereeve of Waldersey shall be to him so presented, pay and satisfy the same, which draft or drafts so paid shall afterwards be allowed in his account as fully as if the same had been by him paid by order of the said trustees, the said tolls always to be liable and applicable to the payment of the said drafts prior to any other charge on the same."

Wisbech to Thorney.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 74.

This act exempts the corporation from toll for conveying materials for repairing banks, &c.

Peterborough to Thorney.

† 32 Geo. 3. c. 129.

\* 53 Geo. 3. c. 89.



**Bridges.****Foss Dike.**

\* 51 Geo. 3. c. 71.

**Sutton Wash.**

\* 7 Geo. 4. c. 106.

**Inclosures.****Tilney and Islington.**

† 36 Geo. 3. c. 89.

**Embeth.**

† 57 Geo. 3. c. 45.

**Walsoken.**

† 1 Geo. 4. c. 30.

**MIDDLE LEVEL.****Bluntisham, with Earith and Colne.**

† 53 Geo. 3. c. 32.

Inclosure.

**The upper** end of the Barrier Bank north of the 100-feet Wash.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 46.

Embankment.

**The lower end of the same.**

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 47.

Ditto.

Power of commissioners to lend money to the Bedford Level corporation, and take assignment of bond, &c.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners assembled as aforesaid, to advance and lend out of the said rates, taxes and assessments, or any money arising therefrom, or which may be raised or borrowed upon the credit thereof under this act, to the governor, bailiffs and conservators of the Bedford Level, any sum or sums of money to be laid out and expended as hereinafter mentioned; and the said commissioners, as a security for the repayment of such sum and sums of money so lent and advanced, to take assignments of corporation bonds or fresh bonds for any such sum or sums of money advanced since the first day of March, one thousand eight hundred and nine, to the said corporation and applied for the same purpose."

**Well District.**

+ 22 Geo. 2. c. 16.

Drainage.

+ 13 Geo. 3. c. 19.

Ditto.

\* 41 Geo. 3. c. 34.

Ditto.

**Manea District.**

† 21 Geo. 2. c. 18.	-	-	Drainage.
* 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 1.	-	-	Ditto.
‡ 44 Geo. 3. c. 46.	-	-	Inclosure.
‡ 6 Geo. 4. c. 65.	-	-	Ditto.

**Sutton and Mepal District.**

† 22 Geo. 2. c. 11.
† 32 Geo. 2. c. 13.
† 15 Geo. 3. c. 65.
† 17 Geo. 3. c. 65.
* 46 Geo. 3. c. 96.
‡ 49 Geo. 3. c. 107.

**Chatteris.**

‡ 23 Geo. 3. c. 38.	-	-	Ploughing.
‡ 49 Geo. 3. c. 107.	-	-	Inclosure.

**Ramsey, Bury, Wistow, Warboys, Farcet, Standground, and Doddington—Six districts.**

† 30 Geo. 2. c. 33.	-	-	Drainage.
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This act is repealed by the 38 Geo. 3. c. 72.

**Ramsey, Middlemoor, &c.—Six districts.**

† 36 Geo. 3. c. 72.	-	} Drainage, Inclosure, and Turf-digging.
* 58 Geo. 3. c. 49.	-	

**Ramsey, Doddington, March, Benwick, Wimblinton, and Chatteris—north of the 40 feet—Five Districts for Drainage and two for Embanking, with Toll on the 40-feet Bank.**

† 12 Geo. 3. c. 26.	-	-	} Drainage, Embanking, and Turnpike Road along the 40-feet Bank.
† 34 Geo. 3. c. 127.	-	-	
* 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 40.	-	-	
* 56 Geo. 3. c. 3. (renewal of the Turnpike Road and Toll.)	-	-	

**Ramsey and Bury District.**

* 44 Geo. 3. c. 15.	-	-	Drainage.
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**White Fen, Benwick.**

‡ 7 Geo. 3. c. 37.	-	-	Drainage.
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Curf and Normoor in Chatteris and Doddington. Two Districts.

† 31 Geo. 2. c. 19. - - Drainage.

Wimblinton Districts.

† 8 and 9 Geo. 3. c. 30. - Drainage.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 143. 2d District. Ditto.

Wimblinton Common and Fields.

† 31 Geo. 3. c. 81. - - Inclosure.

† 6 Geo. 4. c. 65. - - Ditto.

March, &c.—Six Districts.

† 30 Geo. 2. c. 36. - - Drainage.

† 14 Geo. 3. c. 16. 6th District. Ditto.

† 32 Geo. 3. c. 108. - - Inclosure.

† 35 Geo. 3. c. 48. 4th District. Drainage.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 78. 1st and 2d District. Ditto.

\* 9 Geo. 4. c. 40. West Fen. Ditto.

Whittlesey.—Five Districts.

† 22 Geo. 2. c. 19. - - Drainage.

† 12 Geo. 3. c. 27. 3d, 4th, & 5th Dist. Ditto.

† 37 Geo. 3. c. 68. 2d, 3d, 4th, & 5th do. Ditto.

Warboys.

† 35 Geo. 3. c. 108. - - } Drainage &  
† 38 Geo. 3. c. 82. - - } Inclosure

Raveley.

† 26 Geo. 3. c. 30. - - Inclosure.

Sawtry.

† 44 Geo. 3. c. 13. - - Inclosure.

† 47 Geo. 3. c. 42. sess. 2. - Ditto.

Glatton and Holme.

† 16 Geo. 3. c. 64. - - Drainage.

\* 49 Geo. 3. c. 136. - - Inclosure.

Denton.

† 42 Geo. 3. c. 63. - - Inclosure.

Stilton.

† 45 Geo. 3. c. 31. - - Inclosure.

* 50 Geo. 3. c. 80.	-	-	Drainage.
Yaxley.			
† 7 Geo. 3. c. 14.	-	-	Inclosure.
† 13 Geo. 3. c. 46.	-	-	Drainage.
Farcett.			
† 13 Geo. 3. c. 39.	-	-	Drainage.
Standground and Farcett.			
† 41 Geo. 3. c. 48.	-	-	Inclosure.
Barrier Bank. South side of Moreton's Leam.			
* 50 Geo. 3. c. 77.	-	-	Embankment.
Middle Level Rivers.			
† 27 Geo. 2. c. 12.	-	-	Drainage.
* 50 Geo. 3. c. 125.	-	-	Ditto.
Waldersea.			
† 4 Jac. 1. c. 13.	-	-	Drainage.
This act is fully set forth in the foregoing Appendix.			
* 9 Geo. 4. c. 89.	-	-	Drainage.
Ladus.			
† 11 Geo. 3. c. 83.	-	-	Drainage.
Bardolf, &c.			
* 38 Geo. 3. c. 70.	-	-	Drainage.
Downham, &c.			
* 42 Geo. 3. c. 19.	-	-	Drainage.
N. B. There does not appear any authority in this act for erecting mills upon the banks of Well Creek, and the rights of the corporation are fully reserved.			
Marshland, Smeath, and Fen.			
† 36 Geo. 3. c. 100.	{ Drainage and Inclosure.		
Magdalen.			
† 30 Geo. 2. c. 32.	-	-	Drainage.
† 24 Geo. 3. sess. 1. c. 9.	-	-	Ditto.
Fitton.			
† 47 Geo. 3. sess. 2. c. 41.	-	-	Inclosure.

These places are not exactly situated within the Middle Level, but as they adjoin, they are placed amongst this collection, for the convenience of reference.

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## SOUTH LEVEL.

## Swaffham and Bottisham District.

† 7 Geo. 3. c. 53.	-	-	Drainage.
† 19 Geo. 3. c. 34.	-	-	Ditto.
* 59 Geo. 3. c. 78.	-	-	Ditto.

## Swaffham Bulbeck.

‡ 38 Geo. 3. c. 81.	-	-	Inclosure.
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## Bottisham.

‡ 41 Geo. 3. c. 127.	-	-	Ditto.
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## Horningsea.

‡ 42 Geo. 3. c. 20.	-	-	Ditto.
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## Fen Ditton.

‡ 43 Geo. 3. c. 118.	-	-	Ditto.
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## Swaffham Prior.

‡ 45 Geo. 3. c. 97.	-	-	Ditto.
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## Burwell.

‡ 54 Geo. 3. c. 52.	-	-	Ditto.
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## Middle Fen District.

† 31 Geo. 2. c. 18.	-	-	Drainage.
† 29 Geo. 3. c. 22.	-	-	Ditto.
* 39 and 40 Geo. 8. c. 90.	-	-	Ditto.

## Fordham.

‡ 49 Geo. 3. c. 36.	-	-	Inclosure.
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## Burnt Fen. Two Districts.

† 33 Geo. 2. c. 32.	-	-	Drainage.
† 13 Geo. 3. c. 20.	1st District.		Ditto.
† 37 Geo. 3. c. 89.	Ditto.		Ditto.
* 47 Geo. 3. sess. 2. c. 83.	Ditto.		Ditto.

River banks  
not to be cut  
but under the  
inspection of  
the commis-  
sioners' officers.

"Provided also, That it shall not be lawful to cut so much of the bank or banks of the said river Ouse, Mildenhall, Brandon and Lakenheath, as is situate within the limits of this act or any of them, for a waterway to any engine or engines, but under the inspection of any officer of the said commissioners for the time being, who shall have power, in case of neglect of the owner or owners of such engine or engines, to cause good and

sufficient tunnels to be laid down, and such banks well and effectually made up again and secured at the costs and charges of the respective owner or owners of such engine or engines.

"Provided likewise, and be it enacted, That none of such banks as last aforesaid, shall be cut for any purpose whatsoever, without the consent of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level; and that when any cut shall be made in any of the said banks with such consent as aforesaid, the same shall be done under the direction of such officer of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty, as they shall nominate for that purpose, but at the costs and charges of the person or persons applying to make the same."

Nor without  
consent of the  
corporation of  
Bedford Level.

\* 47 Geo. 3. sess. 2. c. 50. 2d District. Drainage.

By the above acts the members of the corporation, their officers, and also the carriage of all materials used for the repair of banks, are exempt from toll.

Lakenheath and Brandon..

† 8 Geo. 3. c. 47. - - Drainage.

† 58 Geo. 3. c. 25. - - Inclosure.

Worlington.

† 39 Geo. 3. c. 115. - - Ditto.

Mildenhall.

† 47 Geo. 3. c. 38. - - Ditto.

\* 4 Geo. 4. c. 103. 1st District. Drainage.

Mildenhall and Feltwell.

\* 9 Geo. 4. c. 44. - - Turnpike Road.

Feltwell. 2d District.

† 30 Geo. 2. c. 35. - - Drainage.

† 13 Geo. 3. c. 45. - - Ditto.

\* 42 Geo. 3. c. 24. 2d District. Ditto.

\* 46 Geo. 3. c. 95. - - Ditto.

Northwold.

† 36 Geo. 3. c. 14. - - Inclosure.

Methwold.

† 45 Geo. 3. c. 30. - - Ditto.

Brandon.

\* 47 Geo. 3. Sess. 2. c. 134. - - Ditto.

Feltwell.

\* 53 Geo. 3. c. 142. - - Inclosure.

Hockwold and Wilton.

\* 54 Geo. 3. c. 36. - - Ditto.

N. B. This act provides that the banks of the Bedford Level corporation shall not be taken as any part of the commons and waste grounds to be inclosed.

Hilgay.

‡ 4 Geo. 3. c. 21. - - Drainage.

Stoke Ferry, &c.

† 11 Geo. 3. c. 72. - - Ditto.

\* 54 Geo. 3. c. 177. - - Ditto.

Reserving  
rights and prop-  
erty of the  
Bedford Level  
corporation.

“ Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this act contained, shall vest in the said commissioners, any of the drains, cuts, banks, forelands, rights, or property, now vested in, possessed by, belonging to, or under the care or authority of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or of the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation or shall vest in the said commissioners, any part or parts of the said drain or cut, called Saint John's Eau, or of the banks forelands, or sluices thereof, but that the right, interest, and property in and to the whole of such cuts, drains, banks, forelands, and sluices, or other works, shall remain, continue, and be as if this act had not passed.

Commissioners  
not to have any  
power over the  
works of the  
Bedford Level  
corporation, in  
opposition to  
any orders  
made by the  
corporation.

“ Provided also, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to authorize or empower the said commissioners, or any of them, to make any order or orders, or execute any order or work, or complete any work before begun, or do any act or acts contrary, or in opposition to, or in any respect varying from an order or orders that shall be made either before or after, by the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the Bedford Level corporation, or of any five or more of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them to be two, touching or relating to any of the rivers, sewers, drains, wear dikes, sluice tunnels, bridges, or other works, banks, and the front and back forelands thereof, now vested in, possessed by, belonging to, or under the care or authority of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or of the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation.

Reservation of  
rights, in case

“ Provided also, and be it further enacted, That nothing hereinbefore done by the commissioners under the said recited, or

hereafter to be done under this present act, shall, at any time or times, exclude or prevent the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the Bedford Level corporation, or any five of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, or the owners or occupiers, or other persons interested in the drainage of the South Level, under the order and direction of the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, or any five of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs to be two, from making, altering, converting, or using the said drain or cut called Saint John's Eau, and the sluice or sluices from the Ouze, into or out of the same, for the general drainage of the lands in the South Level, or for passing the waters of the Ouze above Denver Sluice, into the Ouze through Saint John's Eau, as they shall think proper, or to prevent or hinder the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or any five of them, whereof the governor or bailiffs to be two, or the said owners, occupiers, or persons interested in the drainage of the South Level as aforesaid, under the order and direction of the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, or any five of them, whereof the said governor or bailiffs to be two, from removing obstructions, or altering any of the works of the said commissioners, which may obstruct, hinder, or prejudice the said drainage of the South Level, or the discharge of the waters of the Ouze, above Denver Sluice, through Saint John's Eau as aforesaid, or to subject the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, or the said other person or persons acting under the order and direction of the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, to any charges, expences, or damages for what they may do in removing, taking away, or altering any of the said works, or for any obstruction or alteration which may then be necessary or occasioned to the drainage of the said fen lands and low grounds to be drained under and by virtue of this act."

"And be it further enacted, That if the said drain or cut called Saint John's Eau, should, at any time, be used for the drainage of the general downfall waters of the South Level, or for the passage of the waters of the Ouze above Denver Sluice, through the said drain or cut, that then, and so long as the said drain or cut shall be so used, the bridge over the same at Downham Market shall not be repaired or maintained by the said commissioners, but shall be repaired and maintained by the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or by the said governor, bailiffs, and conservators, or by the owners and occupiers of the lands of the South Level, or others interested in the drainage of the same, or by the county, as the obligation to repair the same shall be, but that until that time the repairs and mainte-

Saint John's Eau should be used for passing the waters of the Ouze, or the downfall waters on the South Level.

Bridges over Saint John's Eau to be maintained by commissioners so long as they use the said drain.



APPENDIX.

name of the said bridge shall belong to, and be a charge upon the said commissioners, unless the county shall be, or be found liable to the repairs thereof."

Statute Acts  
with relation  
corporations  
banks.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall authorize or empower any of the said owner or owners of any banks or mills now standing or used, or any that may hereafter be erected or built by any person or persons under and by virtue of this act, upon any of the banks, drains, or rivers, now vested in, possessed by, or belonging to or under the care or authority of the said governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or of the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, to continue, erect, make, or use any such bank or mills, except subject to the same provisoes, orders, powers, and authorities, as are above contained, as to the orders, powers, and authorities of the governor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the company of conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or of the governor, bailiffs, and conservators of the said corporation, over the orders and works of the commissioners appointed under and by virtue of this act."

Littleport and Downham District.

† 39 Geo. 2. c. 22.

Drainage.

Corporation to  
maintain the  
south bank of  
the Hundred  
Feet River,  
and west bank  
of the Ouse.

"Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted, That the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, shall keep and maintain the south bank of the Hundred Feet River, and the west bank of the river Ouse, in like manner as they have hitherto done."

\* 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 26.

Drainage.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 194.

Ditto.

Witchford.

† 46 Geo. 3. c. 6.

Inclosure.

Cawdle Fen.

† 11 Geo. 2. c. 34.

Drainage.

\* 50 Geo. 3. c. 128.

Ditto.

Waterbeach Level.

† 14 Geo. 2. c. 24.

Drainage.

† 6 Geo. 3. c. 93.

Ditto.

† 30 Geo. 3. c. 74.

Ditto.

† 37 Geo. 3. c. 89.

Ditto.

\* 53 Geo. 3. c. 81.-

Ditto.

**Landbeach.**

‡ 47 Geo. 3. Sess. 2. c. 55. - Inclosure.

**Waterbeach.**

\* 53 Geo. 3. c. 81 - Inclosure.

**Haddenham Level.**

† 13 Geo. 1. c. 18. - Drainage.

N. B. This is the first private district act within the Bedford Level.

† 37 Geo. 3. c. 96. - Drainage.

**Hundred-feet Washes.**

† 29 Geo. 2. c. 21. - Embankment.

\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 145. - Ditto.

"And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners shall make and raise a bank along the said washes on the side next the Hundred Feet River, from or near Earith Bridge to or near Welmore Lake aforesaid."

Commissioners to make a bank next the Hundred Feet River.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, That no bank, sluice, cut, drain, dam, tunnel, outlet, heading or other work whatever, shall be made or executed, or altered or commenced by the said commissioners, unless the consent of the said corporation of Bedford Level shall have been previously obtained for that purpose; and that all such works as the said commissioners are by this act authorized to make, do or execute, shall be made, done and executed by them of such dimensions and with such materials, and in such manner and form as shall have been previously approved of by the said corporation, or their superintendant, or other person to be appointed by them from time to time for that purpose; and in case any work shall be made or executed, or altered or commenced, without such previous consent or approbation, or shall be made of dimensions or materials, or in manner or form not approved of as aforesaid, the said commissioners shall, within a reasonable time after being thereunto required by the said corporation, by writing signed by the register of the said corporation, annul and discontinue the works so made, done, executed or altered, or commenced, and restore and put the site or sites thereof into the like state as the same were in previously to the commencement of any such last-mentioned works, or as near thereto as possibly can be; or the said commissioners shall, as the case may require, make, do, execute, and alter all such works in any such requisition to be specified, according to the dimensions and with the materials, and in the manner and form therein set forth."

Works to be previously approved of by the corporation of Bedford Level, or their officer.

Certain sluices  
when made,  
how to be re-  
paired.

“ And whereas it may be necessary for the purposes of this act to erect two sluices (that is to say) one at the upper end of the said washes or wash lands, for the purpose of admitting the freshes or flood waters into the same, and another at the lower end of the said washes or wash lands for discharging the waters thereof, and for preventing the tidal waters from entering into and flowing up the same; Be it further enacted, That such sluices shall at all times afterwards be maintained and kept in good repair by the said commissioners, in such manner as the superintendant of, or other person to be appointed by the said corporation from time to time for that purpose, shall order and direct; and such superintendant, or other person to be appointed as last aforesaid, shall from time to time ascertain the expences incurred in doing such repairs, and certify the amount thereof in writing, and shall deliver, or cause to be delivered, one copy of such certificate to the register for the time being, of the said corporation, and another copy thereof to the treasurer or receiver for the time being of the said commissioners; and the said corporation shall, at their first general meeting to be holden next after the delivery of one copy of such certificate to their said register, make order for repayment to the treasurer or receiver of the said commissioners, of one moiety of the expence of such repairs so ascertained as aforesaid, and shall cause such moiety to be paid to the said treasurer or receiver in the month of July next after such general meeting, or sooner if the said corporation shall think fit.

Corporation to  
appoint sluice  
keepers, who  
are to be paid  
by the commis-  
sioners.

“ And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said corporation of Bedford Level, from time to time to appoint one or more sluicekeeper or sluicekeepers for the purpose of opening, closing, taking care of and attending the sluices to be erected as aforesaid, at such times and under such orders and regulations as the said corporation, their superintendant, or any other person to be appointed by them for that purpose shall order and direct, and such sluicekeeper or sluicekeepers may be removed at the discretion of the said corporation, and every such sluicekeeper so to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be allowed and paid by the said commissioners such yearly salary, not exceeding the sum of forty shillings, as the said corporation shall direct or appoint; and if any such sluicekeeper shall at any time refuse, neglect or omit to open or close such sluices at such times and under such orders and regulations as aforesaid, he shall on conviction thereof before any two justices of the peace for the county or place where the offence shall be committed (which justices are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the matter on the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, or the confession of the party offending) for every such offence forfeit and pay any sum of money not exceeding ten pounds, as such justices shall order

and direct, which forfeiture or penalty shall be paid to the informer or informers, prosecutor or prosecutors, at such time as such justices shall direct, and in default of such payment the same shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender, by warrant under the hands and seals of any two such justices, and for want of such distress the person so-offending shall be committed by any two such justices to the house of correction for the county or place where the offence was committed, there to be kept to hard labour for such time as the said last-mentioned justices shall order and direct, not exceeding three calendar months, at the discretion of the said last-mentioned justices."

" And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said corporation, at their discretion, to direct the bank hereby directed to be raised, to be made a haling or towing path, and from time to time to order and appoint the times when such bank shall or may be used as a haling or towing path, and to make such rules, orders and regulations respecting the haling or towing thereon, as to the said corporation shall seem meet; and the said corporation shall from time to time give notice of all such directions, orders, rules and regulations, by public advertisement, to be signed by their register, and to be inserted at least eight days previous to all such times respectively, in some country newspaper usually circulated in the Isle of Ely, and also by notices to be affixed at each end of the said Hundred Feet Bank, and at such other parts thereof as to them shall seem meet.

The corporation of Bedford Level to appoint the times when the Wash Bank may be haled.

" And be it further enacted, That if any person shall at any time hale with any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, against or along any part of such last-mentioned bank before the said corporation of Bedford Level shall have made or shall have allowed the same to be used as a haling bank or towing path, every such person shall, on conviction thereof before any justice of the peace for the county or place where the offence shall be committed, for every such offence forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding five pounds, to be paid to the said commissioners, and to be by them applied to the purposes of this act.

Against haling on the bank before the same shall have been made a towing path.

" And be it further enacted, That if, during the time or times when the said corporation shall have appointed and directed any such bank to be used as an haling or towing path, any person shall wilfully hale any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel, against or along the bank called the Hundred Feet Bank, every person so offending and being thereof convicted before any justice of the peace for the county or place where the offence shall be committed (which justice is hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the matter on the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, or on the confession of the party so offending) shall for every such offence forfeit

Penalty for haling on the Hundred Feet Bank after the Wash Bank shall become a haling bank.



and pay any sum or sums of money not exceeding ten pounds, as the said justice shall order and direct, one moiety of which penalty shall be paid to the person who shall inform or sue for the same, and the other moiety thereof shall be paid to the receiver general of the said corporation, for the use of the said corporation, and shall be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender by warrant under the hand and seal of such justice; and in default of such payment or distress, the person so offending shall be committed by such justice to the house of correction for the county or place where the offence was committed, there to be kept to hard labour for such time as the said justice shall order and direct, not exceeding three calendar months, at the discretion of the said justice.

Occupiers of land near to or adjoining the Hundred Feet River, may hale on the Hundred Feet Bank in certain cases.

"Provided always, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to prohibit or prevent any person occupying any land lying near to or adjoining the Hundred Feet River aforesaid, and conveying the produce thereof along the said last-mentioned river, from haling with any boat, barge, lighter or other vessel laden with the produce of any such land along the said bank called the Hundred Feet Bank."

South Level General.	-	-	} Drainage and Navigation.
* 7 and 8 Geo. 4. c. 47.	-	-	

The corporation have power to appoint a commissioner under this act. The drainage and navigation, and Padnal and Waterden commissioners, have power over the works, subject to the following reservation clause:

Preserving rights of the Bedford Level corporation, and extending the same to banks, &c. of new cuts.

"And whereas by virtue of an act passed in the fifteenth year of the reign of his Majesty king Charles the Second, for settling the drainage of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level, the governor, bailiffs and commonalty of the company of conservators of the said Great Level have respectively power and jurisdiction over the several rivers and lodes intended to be scoured out and improved under the authority of this act, as well as over the said cut called Sandy's Cut, and the banks and forelands thereof, and the channels, banks and forelands of such parts of the said rivers Ouze and Lark as are intended to be abandoned; Be it therefore further enacted, That nothing in the said last-mentioned act contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to hinder, impede or interrupt the said drainage and navigation commissioners in executing the several works by this act directed to be done, or in carrying into effect the several provisions of this act: Provided always, that all the rights, powers and authorities whatsoever which by virtue of the said act of the fifteenth year of the reign of king Charles the second, or any other act or statute whatsoever or otherwise, are now vested in the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, or in the

said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any of them (except so far as such rights, powers and authorities are not taken away, lessened or abridged by this act) shall for ever hereafter remain, continue and be in the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and in the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, and every of them, as fully and amply to all intents and purposes as if this act had not been passed; provided also, that the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, and every of them, shall have and possess such and the like rights, powers and authorities over the channels of the said intended new cuts, and the banks and forelands thereof, (so far as the same are not contrary to the provisions of this act,) as the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty, and the said governor, bailiffs and conservators, or any of them, now have or can exercise over the several channels, banks and forelands intended to be abandoned, or any of them, and that the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty shall not in any manner be subject to any charge, loss or damage which may arise or be occasioned by the execution of any of the works herein authorized or directed to be done; nor shall the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty be liable in any way or at any time to the repair of the said new banks or forelands, or any of them, further than to make an annual allowance or contribution to the said drainage and navigation commissioners towards such repair, proportionate to the sums which may from time to time be allotted by the said governor, bailiffs and commonalty for the maintenance of the several other banks of the said river Ouze."



## NORTH LEVEL.

### Five Districts.

† 27 Geo. 2. c. 19.

† 11 Geo. 3. c. 78.

The above acts are fully set forth in the foregoing Appendix.

† 15 Geo. 3. c. 12.

† 19 Geo. 3. c. 24.

† 36 Geo. 3. c. 73.

By this act certain lands in the North Level are charged with a further tax of 6d. an acre; and the lands called *Portesand*, otherwise Great Porsand, with a further tax of 3d. an acre, and the amount thereof to be applied to the works of the corporation in the North Level; and the corporation are empowered,

with the consent of certain owners, to borrow 10,000*l.* on their bonds. The corporation are directed to deliver a yearly account to the commissioners of the money received on account of the North Level, and of the application thereof.

† 13 Geo. 3. c. 40. 2nd District.

† 13 Geo. 3. c. 49. 4th Ditto.

\* 39 and 40 Geo. 3. c. 91. 4th Ditto.

Sutton Common.

\* 49 Geo. 3. c. 119. - - Drainage.

Tydd and Newton. Drainage. The Outfall and Sands.

† 13 Geo. 3. c. 60.

\* 48 Geo. 3. c. 23.

\* 7 and 8 Geo. 4. c. 85.

This act repeals the several clauses relative to the powers of the Bedford Level corporation, under the 48 Geo. 3. c. 23., but reserves their rights as commissioners of sewers.

Tid St. Mary.

† 32 Geo. 3. c. 25. - - Inclosure.

Leverington and Parson Drove.

\* 41 Geo. 3. c. 73.

Wisbech, Murrow and Guyhirn.

† 15 Geo. 3. c. 66.

\* 49 Geo. 3. c. 43.

Peterborough.

\* 51 Geo. 3. c. 59. - - Inclosure.

Borough Fen. - - - } Inclosure and  
\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 143. - - - } Drainage.

Maxey Deeping, &c.

\* 49 Geo. 3. c. 152. - - Inclosure.

Werrington and Walton.

† 49 Geo. 3. c. 82. - - Ditto.

Crowland.

\* 41 Geo. 3. c. 116. - - } Drainage and  
\* 58 Geo. 3. c. 78. - - - } Inclosure.

**Crowland and Eye.**

\* 57 Geo. 3. c. 54.

- Turnpike Road.

By this act the corporation are exempt from toll for all materials for the repair of such part of the Welland Bank as extends southwardly from a certain tunnel in the said bank at the end of the said town of Crowland, called the West Tunnel.

**Deeping Fen.**

† 16 and 17 Car. 2. c. 11.

‡ 22 Car. 2. c. 15.

† 11 Geo. 2. c. 39.

‡ 5 Geo. 3. c. 86.

‡ 10 Geo. 3. c. 41.

† 14 Geo. 3. c. 23.

† 34 Geo. 3. c. 102.

\* 41 Geo. 3. c. 128.

**Welland Bank and Road.**

† 12 Geo. 3. c. 103.

† 35 Geo. 3. c. 166.

By this act it is provided that a certain bar called Gilbert's Bar is to be the property of the corporation, with power to take the like tolls as are payable at the bar near Cowbitt. The corporation have also power to remove Gilbert's Bar to any other place, and to lessen the tolls ; but nothing in the act is to prevent the corporation repairing the Great Bank, from the tunnel at the south-west end of Crowland, to the end of the bank at Peakirk.

**South Holland Drainage, Spalding, Weston, Moulton,  
Whaplode, Holbeach and Sutton.**

† 33 Geo. 3. c. 109.

**Fleet.**

‡ 34 Geo. 3. c. 94.

**South Holland Embankment of Salt Marshes and Drain-  
age in Spalding, Moulton, Whaplode, Holbeach,  
and Gedney.**

† 33 Geo. 3. c. 116.

\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 174.

**Gedney.**

‡ 31 Geo. 3. c. 49.



## Moulton.

‡ 33 Geo. 3. c. 73.

## Holbeach and Whapload Inclosure.—Sands.

\* 52 Geo. 3. c. 163.

## Long Sutton.

‡ 20 Geo. 2. c. 9.

‡ 28 Geo. 3. c. 54.

## Walpole Salt Marsh.

‡ 29 Geo. 3. c. 43.

## Terrington Salt Marsh.

‡ 30 Geo. 3. c. 17.

## Eye.

‡ 1 Geo. 4. c. 16.

Inclosure.









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